*Breslaw's Last Legacy:*

OR, THE

# Conjurer Unmasked.

CONTAINING ALL THAT IS

*CURIOUS, PLEASING, ENTERTAINING, AND COMICAL,*

Selected from the most celebrated Masters of

SLIGHT OF HAND AND DECEPTION.

WHEREIN IS DISPLAYED,

The Mode and Manner of deceiving the Eye,

As practised by

BRESLAW, SIEUR COMUS, || JONAS, PINETTI, &c.

ALSO,

INTERPRETATIONS OF DREAMS,

SIGNIFICATION OF MOLES, PALMISTRY, &c.

THE WHOLE FORMING

A BOOK OF REAL KNOWLEDGE

IN THE

ART OF CONJURATION.

With an accurate Description of making

THE AIR BALLOON.

THE TWELFTH EDITION,

*With great Additions and Improvements.*

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1794.

# PREFACE.

AS the world is apt to judge from first appearances, so, from the title of a book, they generally judge of its contents; and as their taste for knowledge is to applaud or condemn (perhaps without examining the contents) those of a more serious cast will give it no countenance, merely from what they fancy it must contain, without taking the trouble to read it. To such prejudiced persons this Preface, perhaps, may be of service, to correct their opinions, with respect to its real merits. It does not, by any means, recommend or encourage vice and idleness. The design is to amuse, instruct, and promote innocent diversions; and give new vigour to the mind. This must surely be admitted by the most rigid, unless their ideas are too sublime for this lower world. Besides, the knowledge which this book conveys will wipe off many ill-grounded notions which ignorant people have imbibed. Indeed, some ages back, when learning was confined to a few, self-interested and designing persons pretended to enchantment, and to hold intelligence with supernatural beings, and by their skill in chemistry and mathematics, so worked upon the senses, that many were brought to believe in conjuration.

Every thing has its rise from nature; consequently, it is by no means criminal, and therefore may be recommended rather than exploded. Besides, it may be

be a guide to the artleſs not to be trifled with by thoſe who are capable of theſe deceptions; for, knowing how they may be done, they will not be liable to be impoſed on. To perform *ſlight of hand* well is a difficult taſk, and what, though many pretend to, few are excellent in. It requires a quick eye, a nimble hand, and no ſmall ſhare of volubility; for not a little depends on amuſing the attention with ſome ſtrange ſtory or hard words while the tricks are performing; therefore, any one, with a little practice, may, in a ſhort time, amuſe himſelf and friends by theſe agreeable, harmleſs, and whimſical diverſions.

This book gives a ſhort and entertaining account of the planets, and their ſuppoſed influence on the world, with their names, as diſtinguiſhed by aſtronomers in the celeſtial globe. The other parts will afford ſufficient matter for mirth and ſpeculation; ſo that the whole will form a complete companion for a leiſure hour; and, I doubt not, will be acceptable to all our readers.

BRESLAW's

# BRESLAW's LAST LEGACY, &c.

*Deſcription of the* AIR BALLOON, *Method of making, as practiſed in France and England. The Twelve Signs of the Zodiac, &c.*

THE AIR BALLOON, which hath been the topic of converſation, and ſo much aſtoniſhed the gaping multitude, hath nothing ſo very wonderful in it as may by ſome be imagined. The idea of it, at firſt was, no doubt, taken from children blowing bladders with ſoap-ſuds and a tobacco-pipe; which bubbles will aſcend till ſome rude touch breaks their texture. The Balloon is, in effect, little more; and the manner of making it (the ſize of which may be greater or leſs, according to your own diſcretion) is as follows: Take a piece of taffata, or thin ſilk (on account of their lightneſs) and ſew it into the form intended; leaving a ſmall orifice for the admiſſion of the inflammable air. The taffata, or ſilk, with all the ſeams, muſt be ſtrongly gummed ſeveral times over, in order effectually to keep out common air, and prevent the artificial air from tranſpiring. Its moſt proper form ſhould be orbical or round, as it will not only aſcend the higher but the ſteadier, the atmoſphere air ſurrounding it with more force, and impelling it with greater certainty.

When your Balloon is thoroughly compleated, with reſpect to its form, you muſt then fill it with inflammable air, as follows:

Take a glaſs bottle, or veſſel, whatever ſize you want, put into it a quantity of oil of vitriol, with ſome

iron filings or old nails; then pour on it ſome clear water, and it will ſoon begin to ferment, and if not prevented by ſtopping it cloſe, aſcend in ſmoke to a great height. This air muſt be conveyed into the Balloon by means of a glaſs tube or crane, which muſt be well ſecured at each end, and as the fermentation increaſes, the Balloon will fill. When you have got a ſufficiency of the air, you muſt draw the neck tight with a ſtring fixed on purpoſe, and from this moment it becomes ſo much a lighter body, that it would immediately aſcend, if not reſtrained by a proportionate balance. Before you begin to inject the inflammable air, make the parts again ſecure with gum, or ſome other glutinous compoſition; and after all, you may, if you think proper, gild over the whole. This, when unconfined, will float in the air for ſome time, and continually do ſo until the inflammable air finds a vent, when it will gradually deſcend.

The air Balloon, conſtructed by Mr. Biaggini, and lately let off in the Artillery-ground, Moor-fields, was ten feet diameter, and went to a ſurpriſing height, to the great aſtoniſhment of ſome thouſands of ſpectators; but they may be made as ſmall as you pleaſe, and will float about in a room, and ſerve as a pleaſant amuſement.

Mr. Biaggini has ſince made another Air Balloon, ſixteen feet in diameter, which he has, for ſome time, exhibited at the Pantheon, in Oxford-ſtreet, and which, it is ſaid, he intends ſoon to let off in the Artillery-ground, in order, a ſecond time, to gratify the curioſity of the public.

With reſpect to the rate at which theſe Balloons paſs in the air, it is conjectured (from the average calculation of experiments which have been made) to be not leſs than fifteen miles an hour, without allowing for the obſtructions it is ſubject to meet with from the ſhiftings of the wind.

Such is the deſcription of the famous Air Balloon, which has ſo much attracted the attention of the curious,

curious, both in France and England; and which, though at preſent only a matter of mere curioſity, may in time be ſo improved, as to become a matter of public utility.

As a further illuſtration of the nature of the Air Balloon, and the improvements it hath lately received, it may not be improper to ſubjoin an account of that lately let off in France, the particulars of which were ſent by a gentleman in Paris to Dr. Lettſom in London, and which are as follow:

"On Monday, the 1ſt of December, 1783, an Air Balloon, under the direction of Meſſrs. Charles and Roberts, was let off from the Thuilleries. It had ſuſpended to it a baſket, covered with blue ſilk, and paper finely gilt, in the ſhape of a triumphal car, in which Mr. Charles and Mr. Roberts embarked, and mounted up into the air, amidſt many thouſands of people of all ranks and conditions, among whom were ſeveral foreign princes, and great numbers of the nobility of France. The philoſophers had flags with them of different colours, with which, as they mounted aloft, they ſaluted the admiring world below. When they came to the height at which they meant to go (which was computed to be about twice the height of St. Paul's, London) they threw down a flag as agreed. They then glided along a ſteady horizontal tract over the Fauxbourg St. Honore, ſaluting the people, as they went along, with their flags; and landed at about twenty miles diſtance from the place they ſet out from, being followed by the Duke de Chartres, and ſeveral of the French and Engliſh nobility and gentry, who came in almoſt at their landing. Mr. Roberts then got out, when Mr. Charles, after throwing out ſome ballaſt to lighten the machine, aſcended alone in the Balloon, to the almoſt incredible height of 15026 toiſes, or 3052 yards perpendicular, in about ten minutes.

The account Mr. Charles gives of his obſervations during this time (which is publiſhed in the Journal of to-day) is, that he loſt ſight of every thing below upon earth, and ſaw nothing but a wide expanſe of fine æther—that the barometer fell from 28 to 18, and the thermometer from 7 above freezing, to 5 below it. He deſcended about four or five miles from the ſpot he got up at, near the houſe of a Mr. Farrar, an Engliſh gentleman, where he ſlept that night, and was brought to town by a nobleman in his own carriage the next day, amidſt the general acclamations of the public.

The Balloon was compoſed of red and ſtraw-coloured taffata, pierced alternately, ſo as to appear like meridional lines upon a terreſtrial globe. The upper hemiſphere was covered with a netting, ſurrounded at the bottom by a hoop, to which the car was ſuſpended; ſo that the elaſtic preſſure of the inflammable air was equally repreſſed by all the meſhes of the net above."

Having thus given an accurate and ample deſcription of the Air Balloon, with the proper method of making it, we ſhall now proceed to give ſome account of the power of the planets, as deſcribed by the moſt learned and ingenious aſtronomers. As it is generally believed that the planets have ſome influence over human bodies, it is neceſſary to ſhew what their aſcendancies are over them, according to what planet ruled at their birth. In order to this, we ſhall firſt take notice of the names of the twelve ſigns in the Zodiac, which are as follow:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| One, *Aries* | Five, *Leo* | Nine, *Sagittarius* |
| Two, *Taurus* | Six, *Virgo* | Ten, *Capricorn* |
| Three, *Gemini* | Seven, *Libra* | Eleven, *Aquarius* |
| Four, *Cancer* | Eight, *Scorpio* | Twelve, *Piſces.* |

Theſe ſigns are repreſented in the celeſtial globe by the following figures:

*Aries,*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Aries*, | The Ram | *Libra*, | The Scales |
| *Taurus*, | The Bull | *Scorpio*, | The Scorpion |
| *Gemini*, | The Twins | *Sagittarius*, | The Archer |
| *Cancer*, | The Crab | *Capricorn*, | The Sea Goat |
| *Leo*, | The Lion | *Aquarius*, | The WaterPot |
| *Virgo*, | The Virgin | *Piſces*, | The Fiſher. |

Theſe are placed round the Zodiac in form of a girdle; but we will deſcribe more fully the order in which they ſtand, and in what manner they follow each other.

The Ram, the Bull, the heav'nly Twins,
The next the Crab and Lion ſhines;
The Virgin and the Scales,
The Scorpion, Archer, and Sea Goat,
The Man that holds the Water Pot,
And Fiſh with glitt'ring Tails.

Having thus given a deſcription of the ſigns, we ſhall mention the planets which govern the ſeven days of the week.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Firſt, | The *Sun* | Fifth, | *Jupiter* |
| Second, | The *Moon* | Sixth, | *Venus* |
| Third, | *Mars* | Seventh, | *Saturn.* |
| Fourth, | *Mercury* | | |

The planets govern as follow:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| The *Sun*, | Sunday | *Jupiter*, | Thurſday |
| The *Moon*, | Monday | *Venus*, | Friday |
| *Mars*, | Tueſday | *Saturn*, | Saturday. |
| *Mercury*, | Wedneſday | | |

Theſe govern the days, and the ſigns govern the months.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Aries*, | March | *Libra*, | September |
| *Taurus*, | April | *Scorpio*, | October |
| *Gemini*, | May | *Sagittarius*, | November |
| *Cancer*, | June | *Capricorn*, | December |
| *Leo*, | July | *Aquarius*, | January |
| *Virgo*, | Auguſt | *Piſces*, | February. |

And now it will not be amiſs to give ſome account of the nature and diſpoſition of ſuch perſons who are born under the above ſigns.

Thoſe who are born under *Aries* (that is in March) will be very active, and of a ſtrong memory; fond of going up hills and high places; wantonly inclined, and very merry; and not a little addicted to paſſion; if born of a Tueſday, they will be great fighters, as that day is governed by *Mars*.

Thoſe who are born under *Taurus* (that is in April) will be ſtrong in the head, have commonly thick necks and broad ſhoulders; will be great eaters; liable to receive hurts in their heads and legs, and are ſeldom long-lived.

Thoſe born under *Gemini* (that is May) are moſtly ſlender and delicate, ſubject to ſickneſs, are of a mild diſpoſition, and capable of true love and friendſhip; but ſeldom live to be old; if born on a Sunday, it promiſes they will be rich.

Thoſe born under *Cancer* (that is June) are inclined to be ſhort and corpulent, having a jumping gait when they walk, are fond of the water, ſubject to eruptions and chronic diſorders; and are generally vicious in love.

Thoſe born under *Leo* (that is July) will be bold and enterpriſing; likely to receive honours: are of a noble and generous diſpoſition; have a great ſhare of underſtanding, and are particularly happy in their friends.

Thoſe who are born under *Virgo* (that is Auguſt) are of a ſly and artful diſpoſition; have little ſhare of ſenſe or addreſs, and generally live ſingle.

Thoſe born under *Libra* (which is September) are of a delicate conſtitution; ſenſible; rather haſty; admired by the women; and proſperous through life.

Thoſe who are born under *Scorpio* (that is October) are ſpiteful and paſſionate, have good ſenſe, but are deceitful in friendſhip; are much given to women, but ſeldom happy in their connections; are likely to have many children; impoſe on others; and often

get

get impoſed on themſelves; and very impatient under affliction.

Thoſe who are born under *Sagittarius* (that is November) will be wiſe and diſcreet; rather grave than gay, and fond of retirement.—They are ſincere in love and friendſhip; often marry very young, but have few children; meet with many croſſes in life; but commonly end their days in happineſs.

Thoſe born under *Capricorn* (that is December) will be great travellers, and go to ſea to diſtant countries, be ſubject to many dangers, but will ſurmount them, and become wealthy and eminent.

Thoſe born under *Aquarius* (that is January) are uſually of a ſweet and affable temper, and will be happy in great poſſeſſions; are kind to their friends, good-natured, agreeable, handſome, and very liberal in their favours: bleſt in their loves, have many children, and live to a great age.

Thoſe born under *Piſces* (that is February) will get wealth by trade, and merchandize abroad; are ſubject to cold diſorders, and are of a phlegmatic conſtitution; live happy in the married ſtate, have many children, generally ſons, who ſucceed to their father's wealth and poſſeſſions.

Thus much for prognoſtication of the ſigns and planets; by which any one may gueſs at the diſpoſitions and tempers of thoſe to whom they pay their addreſſes, if they can learn the month in which the party was born. But as this book is to conſiſt of a variety of ſubjects, we ſhall ſay no more on this, but proceed to other matters, equally curious and entertaining.

### *To make Sport and Mirth with Quickſilver.*

THIS volatile mineral will afford many curious experiments, none of which are more pleaſing than the following: boil an egg, and while it is hot make a ſmall hole at one end, then put in a little quickſilver, ſeal up the hole with ſealing-wax, and then leave

leave it on a table, or any where elſe, when it will not ceaſe to fly about while there is any warmth in it, or till it is broken in pieces.

*Another Trick with Quickſilver.*

An old woman on a Sunday was making dumplings, when two of her grandſons came to ſee her, and being merrily inclined, while her back was turned, conveyed ſome quickſilver into the dough, and then took their leave. The old woman left the cooking to the care of her grand-daughter, and went herſelf to church, charging her to be careful, and ſkim the pot, in which was to be boiled the dumplings and a leg of mutton; the girl was very careful to watch when the pot boiled, when taking off the cover, out jumped a dumpling, which ſhe inſtantly put in again, when out flew another, and another after that, which ſo terrified the girl, that ſhe ran with all ſpeed to the church: the old woman ſeeing her come in, held up her hand, and ſhook her head, winked at her, as much as to ſay, begone; at laſt the girl cried out, before all the congregation, "all your nodding and winking does not ſignify, for the leg of mutton has beat the dumplings out of the pot." This cauſed much laughing; and her two grandſons, being then on their knees, ſaw plainly the pleaſing effect of their experiment. But to play tricks with quickſilver ſhould be done with great care, as it is very dangerous.

*A curious Method of reſtoring a Fly to Life, in two Minutes, that has been drowned twenty-four Hours.*

This wonderful experiment is produced by a very ſimple cauſe. Take a fly, put it in a glaſs or cup full of water; cover it ſo as to deprive the fly of air; when you perceive it to be quite motionleſs, take it out and put it on a place expoſed to the ſun, and cover it with ſalt: in two minutes it will revive and fly away.

*To make a Colour that will appear or diſappear by Means of Air.*

Take a ſmelling-bottle, put in it ſome alkali volatile, in which you have diſſolved ſome copper-filings; this will produce a blue colour. Preſent then the ſmelling-bottle to one of the company, deſiring him to ſtop it; and to their great aſtoniſhment, the colour will diſappear as ſoon as the ſmelling-bottle is ſtopped; you will make it eaſily re-appear by taking off the cork, which will be not leſs ſurpriſing.

*To change the Colour of a Roſe.*

Nothing is more wanting to change the colour of a roſe, whether it is on its ſtalk or not, but to burn ſome ſulphur under it: which will make it turn white, and it will not regain its primitive colour in leſs than two hours.

*To render hideous the Faces of all the Company.*

Diſſolve ſome ſalt and ſaffron in ſome ſpirits of wine; dip a little tow in it and ſet fire to it. At this light, thoſe who are of a fair complexion will appear green, and the red of the lips and cheeks turn to a deep olive colour.

*Method of Engraving in Relief on the Shell of a new-laid Egg.*

Chuſe an egg that has a thick ſhell; waſh it well in freſh water, then dry it very carefully with a linen cloth; this being done, put ſome tallow or fat in a ſilver ſpoon; then hold it on the fire; when the fat is melted and very hot, it will ſerve inſtead of ink, for drawing, with a new pen, whatever you like. This being finiſhed, you are to take the egg by the two ends, between two fingers, and then lay it gently in a tumbler filled with good white wine vinegar; wherein, after remaining three hours and an half, the

acid

acid of the vinegar will have eaten enough of the thickneſs of the ſhell; and as it cannot have the ſame effect on thoſe places that are covered with the fat, all the drawing will have preſerved its thickneſs, and will form the relief that is wanted.

By this means one may draw on an egg a coat of arms, a moſaic piece, medallion, or any other deſign whatever.

*A curious and agreeable Wager, which you are ſure of winning.*

Addreſs ſome perſon in the company, and ſay, Madam, or Sir, have you a watch, a ring, an etwee, or any other trinket? Begin by examining what has been given you, in order to form an idea of its value, ſince you are to lay your bet conſiderably under the intrinſic value of the trinket, to avoid being duped.

Suppoſe what has been offered to you is a watch, you are to propoſe a guinea as a wager againſt it: ſaying, to the lady or gentleman, I lay a guinea that you do not ſay three times, my watch: when it is put on the table, and your wager is accepted, aſk the perſon, preſenting him his watch, what is that? he will not fail to anſwer, it is my watch.

Preſent him afterwards another object, making him the ſame queſtion: ſuppoſe the object you preſent be a pen, a piece of paper, or any other thing. If the perſon names the object you preſent, he has loſt; if, on the contrary, he is on his guard, and anſwers, my watch, you muſt certainly win; but if I loſe, what will you give me? the perſon, being always on his guard, will anſwer again, my watch: then, appealing to his own words, you will take the watch and leave him the ſtake.

*A Ring put into a Piſtol, which is after found in the Bill of a Dove in a Box, which had been before examined and ſealed.*

One of the company is requeſted to put his ring into a piſtol, which is charged by another of the ſpectators;

ſpectators;—an empty box is ſhewn to the company, and a third perſon is deſired to ſhut it, who ties it with a ribbon and ſeals it.—This box is placed on a table in the ſight of the company, nevertheleſs, after the piſtol is fired, and the box opened, the dove is there found with the very ring in his bill which had really been put into the piſtol.

## EXPLANATION.

When the piſtol is taken, under pretence of ſhewing how it is to be managed, that moment the performer avails himſelf of, to ſmuggle out the ring, it is then conveyed to the confederate, who puts it in the bill of a tame dove, and by ſtretching his arm into the interior part of the table, he conducts the bird into the box, the bottom of which has a ſecret opening: the ribbon which has been ſealed and ſurrounds the box does not prevent it from opening, becauſe only part of the bottom opens, and care is taken not to give the ribbon a ſecond turn round the box, which, by croſſing the firſt, might impede the introduction of the dove.

We ſhall not here deſcribe the conſtruction of ſuch a box, firſt, becauſe it would require many words to explain the ſimple effects of a groove; and, ſecondly, becauſe there is no cabinet-maker of any ingenuity who does not, of his own, or of the invention of others, know many things of this kind.

In order to make this trick appear more ſurpriſing to thoſe who may ſuſpect the ſmuggling of the ring, you may do it two ways;—that is to ſay, when you have employed the artifice we have pointed out—you may cauſe a ſecond piſtol to be charged by one of the company, which you firſt take to pieces, to ſhew that there is no means of ſmuggling the ring out of the barrel—in this ſecond piſtol, you put a ring furniſhed you by one of the company who is in confederacy, and has already ſupplied your confederate with a ſimilar one to put in the dove's bill in caſe of need.

*The Wonderful Well.*

Four different coloured ſeeds, or ſmall comfits, are given to one of the audience to mix together, and throw down the well, he then is deſired to let down the bucket, and name the colour he would have brought up firſt, and ſo on 'till all the colours are ſeparated.

## EXPLANATION.

The well is made to take off in the middle, in the lower part of which are four cells to contain the different ſeeds, which muſt be filled before the trick is performed, and cloſed by four valves ſimilar to the keys of a German flute;—towards the bottom the well is made narrower, ſo as juſt to fit the bucket, which being let down, the performer demands what colour the company chooſes to be drawn up firſt, and by touching the lever, the ſeed required will fall into the bucket.

*To make one Pen-knife out of three jump out of a Goblet, agreeable to the Option of the Company.*

Take a ſilver goblet, as, on account of its opacity, it will hide the means you employ to make the pen-knife jump out at the deſire of the aſſembly.

This operation conſiſts in a ſmall ſpring, about an inch broad, by two inches and a quarter long.

You are to take care to ſubject or bend this ſpring before you begin the trick with a little bit of ſugar, which being compreſſed between the ends of the ſpring, will prevent it from unbending.

Then aſk the company, ſhewing your three pen-knives of different colours, which of them they chuſe to ſee jump out of the goblet.

Put afterwards your three pen-knives in the goblet, taking care to lay the end of the handle of the choſen pen-knife in a little round hole that is in the upper end of the ſpring, confined by the bit of ſugar; and before

before you withdraw your hand from the goblet, which muſt contain in the bottom ſome drops of water, take a little of it with the tip of your finger, and put it dexterouſly on the ſugar, which, by melting, will leave the ſpring at liberty to extend and make the pen-knife jump out.

While the ſugar is melting, you may ſtand far from the goblet, and command the pen-knife to jump out; and this will be done to the great aſtoniſhment of the ſpectators. Yet nothing is ſo ſimple as the means to make this experiment ſucceed, without the leaſt aſſiſtance from any confederate.

*To pull off any Perſon's Shirt without undreſſing him, or having Occaſion for a Confederate.*

This trick requires only dexterity; and nevertheleſs, when I performed it at the Theatre-Royal, in the Hay-market, every body imagined that the perſon, whom I had tricked out of his ſhirt, was in a confederacy with me.

The means of performing this trick are the following: only obſerving that the cloaths of the perſon whoſe ſhirt is to be pulled off be wide and eaſy.

Begin by making him pull off his ſtock, and unbuttoning his ſhirt at the neck and ſleeves, afterwards tie a little ſtring in the button-hole of the left ſleeve; then, paſſing your hand behind his back, pull the ſhirt out of his breeches, and ſlip it over his head; then pulling it out before in the ſame manner, you will leave it on his ſtomach; after that, go to the right-hand, and pull the ſleeve down, ſo as have it all out of the arm: the ſhirt being then all of a heap, as well in the right ſleeve as before the ſtomach, you are to make uſe of the little ſtring faſtened to the button-hole of the left ſleeve, to get back the ſleeve that muſt have ſlipt up, and to pull the whole ſhirt out that way.

To hide your way of operating from the perſon whom you unſhirt, and from the aſſembly, you may

cover his head with a lady's cloak, holding a corner of it in your teeth.

In order to be more at your eaſe, you may mount on a chair, and do the whole operation under the cloak. Such are the means I uſed when I performed this trick.

*The Handkerchief marked, cut, torn, and mended.*

Two of the company are requeſted to come forward on the ſtage, and a handkerchief is given to them, which they are to hold by the four corners, afterwards many other handkerchiefs are aſked from the company, and as they are gathered they are put into the firſt one to make a bundle:—when a dozen have been heaped, the two perſons who hold the bundle cauſe a third perſon to take one of them out by chance; and this third perſon is requeſted to examine the marks, &c. and to cut off the corner with a pair of ſciſſars, other perſons may alſo cut off pieces if they chuſe; after which the handkerchief is entirely torn to pieces—All the ſhreds are to be collected, which after being ſprinkled with ſome drug, are folded up and tied tight with a ribbon, to preſs them into a ſmall compaſs; they are put under a glaſs, which is warmed by rubbing with your hands—in a few minutes the handkerchief is taken from under the glaſs and unfolded—the company recognize the marks, and the aſtoniſhed ſpectators cannot perceive any rent in the handkerchief.

## EXPLANATION.

This operation, which produces ſo general a deception, is very ſimple. One of the company is in confederacy, who having had two handkerchiefs exactly alike, gave one to the confederate, who is hidden behind the ſcene, and throws the other on the ſtage to be uſed in the trick. Care is taken to put this handkerchief on the top of the heap, although they are ſeemingly mixed at hazard; the perſon to whom

whom you addreſs yourſelf to take one by chance, naturally takes the uppermoſt, and if you perceive that another is taken, you requeſt them to mix them well, under pretence of compleating the trick, and then under pretence of ſettling them, you regain the poſition of the confederate handkerchief, and hand the bundle to ſome other of the company, whoſe countenances indicate leſs ſuſpicion, who puts his hand to the bundle of handkerchiefs, and good-naturedly takes out the firſt. When the handkerchief has been torn, and well folded, it is put under a glaſs on a table, which joins a partition. On the ſpot of the table where it is placed, there is a ſmall trap which opens to let it fall into a drawer: the confederate hid behind the ſcene, paſſes his hand into the table, to ſubſtitute the ſecond in place of the firſt handkerchief, he then ſhuts the trap, which ſo neatly fits the ſpace it has opened, as to appear one uninterrupted ſurface, and deceive the eye of the moſt acute and incredulous ſpectator.

*To make a Sixpence ſeem to fall through a Table.*

To perform this trick you muſt have a handkerchief, with a counter the ſame ſize as a ſixpence, ſewed in one corner of it; take your handkerchief out of your pocket, and aſk one of the company to lend you ſixpence, which you muſt ſeem carefully to wrap up in the midſt of the handkerchief; but, at the ſame time, keep the ſixpence in the palm of your hand, and in its ſtead, wrap the corner that is ſewed into the middle of the handkerchief, and bid them feel, and they will believe the ſixpence is there which they had lent you; then lay it under a hat upon the table, take a glaſs or tea-cup in that hand the ſixpence is in, and hold under the table; and, to carry on the deception, knock upon the table three times, making uſe of ſuch words as "*Vad, come quickly, Preſto;*" at the ſame time letting the ſixpence drop from your hand into the glaſs; taking up the hand-

kerchief and ſhaking it, taking care to hold it by the corner the counter is in; this trick, however eaſy to perform, ſeems ſtrange, if done without bungling.

*How to light a Candle by a Glaſs of cold Water, or any other Liquor, without the Help of Fire.*

You muſt take a little piece of phoſphorus, about the bigneſs of a pin's head, and with a piece of tallow, ſtick it on the edge of the drinking-glaſs, then take the candle lighted, and blow it out, and apply it to the glaſs, and it will immediately light. This is the preparation *Cromwell* uſed to fire off his cannon withal, very amazing to behold: you may write with it on paper ſome horrible words or other, and it will appear dreadful and frightful to the beholders; alſo you may take a piece as big as a pin's head, and rub it on a piece of paper, and it will be ſoon all on a flame.

*The Viſible Inviſible.*

Various are the tricks and fancies made uſe of to amuſe and ſurpriſe by the nimble fingered gentry, who exhibit for a livelihood, and gain a comfortable ſubſiſtence from their gaping audiences.

The aſtoniſhment of the ſpectators encreaſes as their ſenſes are impoſed upon; in fact, they themſelves (though they do not know it) aſſiſt the deceit! for, being more attentive to the trick than to the performer of it, they cannot ſee or comprehend how it is done; when, were they acquainted with the manner, a little practice would make them capable of doing the ſame.

But as people will be amuſed by ſome means or other, according to their different diſpoſitions, ſo thoſe who practiſe theſe diverſions, are in the right to vary their ſcenes as much as they can, and as often as poſſible introduce ſomething new. Novelty has a charm the moſt attractive imaginable; yet they ſhould be careful, in theſe attempts, not to promiſe too much,

much, and well conſider that what they have to offer will bear the teſt of ſcrutiny, leſt they become the ſcoff and ridicule of their auditors, inſtead of their admiration.

A certain gentleman, well known for his talents in the deceptive arts, a few years back, brought together a great number of genteel people at the Lebeck's Head in the Strand.

His bills ſet forth a wonderful new diſcovery, which was to ſurpriſe and aſtoniſh all the beholders; and he called it the *Viſible Inviſible*; his apparatus was a large looking-glaſs, on which was diſplayed a variety of devices, and ſome very pretty verſes, deſcriptive and applicable to his deſign; this was handed round the company, who having read it very plainly, he took his handkerchief and wiped it all out, and the glaſs appeared without the leaſt mark whatever; but on his deſiring any one to breathe upon it, the writing and characters became as viſible as ever.

This was really aſtoniſhing to many preſent; but ſome gentlemen, being well acquainted with the manner it was done, and knowing it was too trifling to pay half-a-crown for ſo ſimple a thing, declared againſt the impoſition, and undeceived the audience, by ſhewing the deception was nothing more than French chalk; this ſet the whole place in an uproar, and vengeance was declared againſt the performer, who, with the utmoſt precipitation, was endeavouring to make his eſcape out of the window, to avoid their fury; but being prevented, he was brought back to the audience, where, having aſked pardon on his knees, and returning the money, he afterwards told them, and told them truly, if he had got off with the money, he ſhould have been *inviſible*; but, as it was, he was *viſible*; after breaking his glaſs, he was ſuffered to depart.

The French chalk is a compound of a greaſy but

extraordinary nature, and has been often made uſe of to draw portraits upon looking-glaſſes, when the picture may be viſible or inviſible, as the poſſeſſor thinks proper, only by breathing or wiping of it, and it will continue ſo for many months.

Mr. Conjuror declared he gave five guineas for the ſecret, and it muſt be confeſſed he bought the bargain.

*For a Perſon to chuſe a Card, you not ſuppoſing to know what it is, and then for the Perſon to hold the Cards between his Finger and Thumb, to ſtrike them all out of his Hand except the very Card he had taken.*

This is called the Nerve trick, and is thus performed; having previouſly looked at a card, bid the perſon draw one, taking care to ſhove that to which you know; when he has looked at it, let him put it at the bottom; let him ſhuffle the cards, then you look at them again, and finding the card, place it at the bottom; then cut them in half; give the party that part which contains his choſen card at the bottom, to lock between his finger and thumb, juſt at the corner; bid him pinch them as tight as he can; then ſtriking them pretty ſharp, they will all fall to the ground except the bottom one, which is the card he had choſen.

This is a very curious trick, and if cleanly done, is really aſtoniſhing; but may be accounted for from the nature of the nerves, which are always more retentive when any thing is attempted to be taken either by force or ſurpriſe.

*How to put a Card in and out of an Egg.*

To do this wonderful feat, you muſt have two ſticks made both of one bigneſs, and both of a likeneſs, ſo that no perſon can know one from the other; one of theſe ſticks muſt be made ſo artificially as to conceal a card in the middle, as thus: you muſt have one of your ſticks turned hollow quite through; and

then an artificial ſpring to throw the card in the egg at your pleaſure.——The operation is thus: take and peel any card in the pack, which you pleaſe, and ſo roll it up, and then put it into your falſe ſtick, and there let it be till you have occaſion to make uſe of it; then take a pack of cards, and let any body draw a card, but be ſure let it be the ſame ſort of card that you have in the ſtick already; then let them put it in the pack again, and when you are ſhuffling them, let that card fall into your lap which the party drew: ſo calling for ſome eggs, deſire the party that drew the card, or any other perſon in the company, to chuſe any one of theſe eggs; and when they have choſen one, aſk them if there be any thing in it, and they will anſwer, No; then take the egg in your left hand, and the falſe ſtick in your right, and ſo break the egg with your ſtick; then let the ſpring go, and the card will appear in the egg, very amazing to the beholders; then conceal that ſtick, and produce the true one upon the table.

*The Dancing Card.*

One of the company is deſired to draw a card, which is afterwards mixed with the pack, and is commanded to appear on the wall; it accordingly obeys, advancing as it is ordered, and deſcribes an inclined line from the right to the left; it diſappears at the top of the room, and appears an inſtant afterwards, moving in a horizontal direction.

## EXPLANATION.

This trick is ſo ſimple, that it hardly merits an explanation: It firſt conſiſts in making a perſon draw a forced card, which you know by the touch, becauſe it is larger than the reſt. After having ſhuffled them, you withdraw it from the pack, to ſhew the company it is not there, and when you order it to appear on the wall, the confederate dexterouſly draws a thread,

a thread, at the end of which is faſtened a ſimilar card, which comes from behind a glaſs, and this card is faſtened by very minute loops of ſilk to another thread fully ſtretched, along which the card runs, and performs its rout—*ſi licet parva componere magnis*, it reſembles the rope acroſs the Seine, by which the ferry-boat of the invalids is conducted.

*How to diſpoſe two little Figures, ſo that one ſhall light a Candle, and the other put it out.*

Take two little figures of wood or clay, or any other materials you pleaſe, only taking care that there is a little hole at the mouth of each.—Put in the mouth of one a few grains of bruiſed gunpowder, and a little bit of phoſphorus in the mouth of the other; taking care that theſe preparations are made beforehand.

Then take a lighted wax candle, and preſent it to the mouth of the figure with the gunpowder, which taking fire will put the candle out; then preſent your candle, having the ſnuff ſtill hot, to the other figure; it will light again immediately, by means of the phoſphorus.

You may propoſe the ſame effect to be produced by two figures drawn on a wall with a pencil or coal, by applying, with a little ſtarch or wafer, a few grains of bruiſed gunpowder to the mouth of one, and a bit of phoſphorus to the mouth of the other.

*To put a Candle under Water alight, without its going out.*

As much has been ſaid about the *diving-bell*, this ſimple trick may ſerve, in ſome degree, to elucidate that contrivance; as it is certainly done on the ſame principle.

Take a glaſs, and faſtening a ſmall bit of wood acroſs the mouth, ſtick thereon a bit of candle lighted, and, with a ſteady hand, bring the glaſs to the ſurface of

of the water, then puſh it carefully down, and you may ſee the candle burn under the water, and may bring it up again alight; and the ſame manner you may put a handkerchief rolled tight together, and it will not be wet.

The principal art in doing this trick, conſiſts in the nicety of bringing the mouth of the glaſs exactly even with the ſurface of the water; for if you put it the leaſt on one ſide, the wet will get in, and conſequently will put the candle out, or wet the handkerchief; ſo that a nice eye and ſteady hand are abſolutely neceſſary for this performance.

### *To make an Egg ſtand an End on a Table or a Looking-glaſs.*

To divert with propriety is no eaſy taſk: it is not ſufficient that a perſon knows a trick, and can do it, but it requires a certain addreſs, an eaſy manner in the performing of it, which renders it doubly pleaſing.

To make an egg ſtand an end on any poliſhed ſurface, ſeems very extraordinary, yet it is to be done, even on a *looking-glaſs*; now from the form of an egg, nothing is more liable to roll, and nothing more ſo than on a looking-glaſs; to accompliſh this trick, let the performer take an egg in his hand, and while he keeps talking, and ſtaring in the face of his audience, give it two or three hearty ſhakes, which will break the yolk, which will ſink to one end, and conſequently make it more heavy, by which, when it is ſettled, you may make it, with a ſteady hand, ſtand upon the glaſs, which would be impoſſible while it continued in its priſtine ſtate.

### *A droll Trick played with a Fowl.*

A perſon who was rather put to it for money, ſet his wits to work how to obtain a little of that neceſſary commodity; he canvaſſed over a number of things in his mind, and at laſt hit upon the following expedient: He

He had got a young cock, which he had brought up to do almoſt whatever he pleaſed (that is, as far as the nature of the bird would allow) it would lay down as dead, with its head tucked under its wing, and lie in that manner as long as he thought proper.

This cock he ſtripped all the feathers from, as they do geeſe in Lincolnſhire, and ſet the cryer to work, informing the gentlemen, ſtudents, &c. (for it was at Cambridge) that at ſuch an hour in the evening he would exhibit a roaſted fowl, which, as ſoon as attempted to be cup up, ſhould riſe out of the diſh, and fly away with the fork ſtuck in it.

Half a crown was the price for ſeeing this great curioſity; and to make it appear as not a mere take in, no money was to be received till after the performance.

Bills in writing were likewiſe diſtributed, and not a few attended at the inn; the ſcholars laughed in their ſleeves; they had heard and ſeen the Jonas's, the Comas's, the Breſlaw's, and the Katerfelto's; but this trick promiſed to ſurpaſs them all.

In the mean time a fowl was laid down to the fire, and the cook brought into the confederacy; a large baſon of egg ſauce was made, and left to cool, the cloth was laid, and the gueſts deſired to walk in; the needy contriver of the ſcheme was as buſy as could be, entertaining the company with a multitude of extraordinary ſtories to divert their attention, while he carried on the deception: at laſt the fowl was done, ſeveral were preſent at its being taken off the ſpit, and then haſtened into the parlour; meantime another diſh was ready cloſe to the door, with the live fowl ſtripped of its feathers in it, and covered over with the cold egg ſauce.

As ſoon as this was ſet upon the table (for the change was managed ſo cleanly, that no perſon perceived it) one of the ſtudents ſtuck in his fork, with a degree of vehemence, that made the fowl quit its

ſupineneſs,

ſupineneſs, run from the diſh, and fluttering its wings, beſpattered the company all over with egg ſauce; and actually made off with the fork, to the no ſmall ſurpriſe and mirth of the beholders.

The man having thus fulfilled his promiſe, began to collect the half crowns, which tumbled in pretty plentifully; the real roaſted fowl was ſerved in with other proviſions; and after ſupper, the evening was concluded with the utmoſt harmony, and much to the ſatisfaction of the wag, who was the contriver, and who filled his pockets by the experiment.

*A Trick with a Cock.*

Birds and animals, it is very well known, are poſſeſſed of wonderful faculties; and may be taught to perform wonderful things; this is evident from recent circumſtances: Mr. Pinchbeck's learned dog and bird are ſufficient proofs to eſtabliſh this beyond all other arguments.

Among the many things practiſed on, and with the feathered race, this of the cock is not the leaſt particular.

Take a cock from rooſt at night, or off his walk by day, and bring him into a room full of company, keep both your hands cloſe to his wings, and hold them tight; put him on a table, and point his beak down as ſtrait as poſſible, and then let any one draw a line, with a piece of chalk, directly from its beak, and all the noiſe you can poſſibly make, with drums, trumpets, or even the crowing of other cocks, will not diſturb him from the ſeeming lethargy, which that poſition you have laid him in, with the chalked line, has effected.

Strange as this is, yet the certainty of it is paſt a doubt, as many gentlemen, who have, ere this, ſported ſome hundreds on the royal turf, have aſſured us they have tried the experiment, and declared it to be a fact.

*To make a Perſon tired, or ſweat, at carrying a ſmall Stick out of a Room.*

Moſt amuſements become more agreeable as they appear more inſignificant at the firſt, and become more laughable in the end; give a ſtick into the hands of any perſon, ſuppoſe not thicker than a pea in circumference, or three inches in length, and tell him you will lay any wager that he ſhall not carry it out of the room, a foot from the door, without ſweating, being tired, or complaining that his back aches; this the perſon (not knowing your intention) no doubt will laugh at, and readily accept the bet; as ſoon as you have made the ſtake *ſure*, take a knife and cut off a little bit, ſo ſmall you can hardly ſee it, and bid him carry that at firſt, and then give him another; and if he thinks proper to abide by the wager, you may, by this means, make him go ſome thouſands of times; but ſooner than proceed to the end of the experiment, it is a thouſand to one but he owns he has loſt; for it might be ſo managed, by the ſmallneſs of the pieces cut, the little ſtick might find him employment for a fortnight.

*To find the Number of Points caſt on Three Dice.*

A quaker being aſked by the great F——e, for the loan of a few thouſands, to prevent his bank from failing in ſuch a critical period, replied, with an archneſs peculiar to his brethren, "Friend, I have heard that many a man may be ruined by two dice, but I am determined that *Fourdice* ſhall never ruin me."

Dice are the more immediate companions of ſharpers and gamblers, who, from a long acquaintance with them, know to a certainty what points they can throw.

To find the number of points caſt on three dice; let any one caſt three dice; then bid him add toge-

ther

ther the points which are uppermoſt; then ſet one of the dice aſide, and to the former, add the points at the bottom of the other two dice; then bid him throw theſe two dice, and mark how many points appear at the top, which add to the former ſum, then let him ſet one of thoſe dice aſide, and mark the points which are under the other dice, and add it to the former ſum; laſtly, let him throw that other dice, and whatever appears on the top of it, add to the former ſum, and let the dice remain. This done, come to the table, and note what points appear upon the three dice, which add privately together, and add to it twenty-one, and you will find the ſum to be equal to the ſum which the parties privately had made of all the other operations.

Thus by calculations many things, almoſt incredible to think, may be done; yet ſuch alluring things are dice, as well as cards, that their nature and uſe are dangerous to explain to young minds; but as this may be of ſervice to thoſe who would be competent in all the branches of arithmetic, it can be of no hurt.

*To find the Points caſt upon two Dice.*

As we have given one ſpecimen in regard to dice, another we preſume will not be thought diſagreeable, eſpecially as the remarks made on the good and bad uſe of them may be a warning not to convert a ſimple paſtime into a vicious crime; for certain, it is more a crime than folly, for any perſon to ſtake his fortune, or eſtate, upon the chance of what may be uppermoſt on the face of two or three pieces of ſpotted ivory; but as admonition is vain to thoſe who will not hear, and of no uſe to thoſe who cannot underſtand, any thing farther on that head would be uſeleſs; we ſhall therefore proceed to the ſecond ſubject.

To find the points caſt upon two dice, let any one caſt both the dice, and then mark how many points

appear at the top, then let him take up one of them (no matter which) and ſee what number is at the bottom, and add all together; then let him caſt the dice again, and add the points caſt to the former ſum; let the dice ſtand, bring ſeven with you, and then add the points which appear at the top of the dice, and you will find ſo many were caſt in the whole.

Simple as this appears to be, there are many not able to comprehend it; and therefore, I adviſe them not to meddle with dice at all; as every one's head is not alike for arithmetical calculations; it requires a ſtrong memory; whereas, in works of fancy, the ideas are continually fluctuating, and as Mr. Pope ſays,

"Where beams of warm imagination play,
"The memory's ſoft faculty melts away."

*Palmiſtry diſplayed, or the Art of telling Fortunes by Lines in the Hands.*

If the lines which are in the middle of the hand (which are called the table lines) are broad and fair, without being broken, it is a ſign the party will lead a happy comfortable life.

If the line from the wriſt goes ſtrait up to the little finger, the perſon will live to a great old age; but if the line is broken, they are in danger of ſudden death, for that is called the line of death; if the line of life (which is that which runs from the wriſt, by the ball of the thumb, and ends under the fore-finger) is clear, and without breaks, it ſhews riches, proſperity and old age; round lines, like circles on the inſide of the tips of the fingers, promiſe houſes, land, and inheritance.—As many lines or croſſes as a woman has in her wriſt, ſo many children ſhe may expect to have.

If the middle or table lines in the hand are very narrow, and contracted, it is a ſign of poverty, and great misfortunes in the world.

And

And if a crooked line runs through the table line, it is a ſign of death by accident, or violence; but if it runs ſtrait, and even through, it is a good ſign.

When a perſon frowns, ſo many wrinkles as they have between their eyes on the top of their noſe, ſhews they will have many huſbands and wives.

*Of Moles in different Parts of the Body, with the Explanation of them.*

A mole on the forehead, if in a woman, denotes barrenneſs, underſtanding, and a good temper; but indicates ſome part of her life has been miſpent, and thrown away on an effeminate and worthleſs being.

A mole on the noſe, ſhews a man is addicted to women.

A mole on the cheek, ſhews the party is much beloved.

A mole on the lip, ſhews a woman will marry very young.

A mole on the chin, denotes many misfortunes.

A mole on the breaſt, betokens a woman to have a great many admirers.

A mole under the ear, betokens the party in danger of being hanged.

A mole in the neck, ſhews plenty.

A mole on the throat, denotes a good heart, a lovely perſon, ſweet temper, and one who generally ſpeaks truth.

A mole on the belly, denotes the perſon is in danger of being drowned.

A mole on the ſide, betokens a drunken perſon.

A mole on the hip, ſhews ſtrength.

A mole in the groin, ſhews a woman in danger by child-birth.

A mole on the leg, ſhews a perſon muſt work hard for a living.

A mole on the right arm, ſhews getting money by induſtry.

And a mole on the left, ſignifies riches by marriage.
A mole on the ancle, ſhews croſſing the ſea.
A mole on the knee, ſhews travelling by land.

*Geographical Paradoxes.*

There is nothing more entertaining or diverting than paradoxes, and the following geographical ones we flatter ourſelves will be acceptable to our readers.

PARADOX I.

There is a certain place of the earth, in a conſiderable northern latitude, where, though the days and nights, even when ſhorteſt, do conſiſt of ſeveral hours, yet in that place it is noon day every half hour.

Solution. Under the North Pole, where the ſun, when viſible, is always ſeen the due ſouth; and conſequently it is not only noon every half hour, but every minute.

PARADOX II.

There is a noted place on the earth, where the ſun and the moon, even when at full, may both happen to riſe at the ſame time, and upon the ſame point of the compaſs.

Solution. Under the North Pole, the ſun and the full moon, both decreaſing in ſouth declination, may riſe in the equinoxial points at the ſame time; and under the North Pole, there is no other point of compaſs but ſouth.

PARADOX III.

There are two remarkable places on the globe of the earth, in which there is only one day, and one night, throughout the whole year.

Solution. Theſe places are the two poles.

PARADOX IV.

There is a certain iſland in the Levant, upon which, if two children born at the ſame time and living together for ſeveral years, ſhould both die at the

the ſame time, yet the life of the one would ſurpaſs that of the other by ſeveral months.

Solution. If one of the perſons travels eaſt, and the other weſt, round the globe, which may be done in a year, there will be two days difference in their account of time; and if this travelling be continued for forty years, there will be eighty days difference in their reckonings; and ſo many days older will he be that travelled eaſtward, than he that travelled weſtward.

### Paradox V.

Some perſons talking of the variety of buſineſs they had ſeen one man do, in a ſhort time, was interrupted by a perſon, who ſaid, he had ſeen a man, who, in one artificial day, could do as much buſineſs as an hundred ſuch men as they had been talking of.

Solution. In one of the long days, between the ſun-riſing and ſetting, in the frigid zone, as the days there are half a year long.

### Paradox VI.

A very great traveller aſſerted, that he had ſeen Whitſunday fall on the longeſt day, on the ſhorteſt day, and on the day when the days and nights were equal.

Solution. In the year 1739, the ſun entered the ſign Cancer, on Whitſunday, being the longeſt day in north latitude, the ſhorteſt in ſouth latitude, and under the equator equal day and night. Now the traveller croſſing the line on that day, ſees every article aſſerted.

### Paradox VII.

There is a certain place in the iſland of Great-Britain, where the ſtars are always viſible at any time of the day, if the horizon be not overcaſt.

Solution. In a deep well, or a coal-pit, the ſurrounding light, which the atmoſphere ſpreads in the open air, is removed from the ſight, ſo that if the

ſhaft of the well, or pit, be ſtraight, thoſe ſtars near the zenith will be readily ſeen.

## Paradox VIII.

There is a certain city in the ſouthern part of China, whoſe inhabitants (both male and female) when walking or ſtanding, do obſerve much the ſame poſture as the Europeans, and yet they frequently appear to ſtrangers, as if they ſtood or walked on their heads.

Solution. People on each ſide of a canal, or river of water, ſee the images of one another in the water, with the head downwards, and ſo are the people of China ſeen in their rivers, by the Europeans from their ſhips.

## Paradox IX.

There is a certain city, whoſe buildings being generally of firm ſtone, are for the moſt part of a prodigious height, and exceeding ſtrong, and yet it is moſt certain, that the walls of not one houſe in the whole city are parallel to one another, nor perpendicular to the plane on which the middle of the houſe ſtands.

Solution. Every builder endeavours to raiſe walls perpendicular to the level of the ſpot they ſtand upon, in a line directed towards the center of the earth; conſequently two ſuch walls are not equal or parallel; and geometry ſhews, that no other line drawn perpendicular to a tangent, beſide that at the point of contract, is directed towards the center.

## Paradox X.

There is a remarkable river, on the continent of Europe, over which there is a bridge of ſuch a breadth, that above three thouſand men may paſs along a-breaſt, and that without crouding one another in the leaſt.

Solution. There are rivers which in ſome part of their courſe, run under ground for a conſiderable way,

way, of two or three miles, which is breadth ſufficient for three thouſand men to walk a-breaſt of one another; allowing there were more than three feet ſpace for each man to walk on.

*Dreams and their Interpretations, the Belief in Dreams eſtabliſhed from Holy Writ, &c.*

From the earlieſt accounts of paſt ages, mention is made of dreams, and they were looked upon as divine informations, ſigns, and warnings, not a few of which are mentioned in holy writ.

The inſpired writers have thought proper to diſplay their diſcernment by various ways; the dream of that heathen tyrant Nebuchadnezzar was interpreted by Daniel, and according to that interpretation, was fulfilled.

The dream of Pharaoh was not leſs remarkable, and the interpretation of Joſeph was likewiſe accompliſhed.

Beſides, there are many other inſtances in ancient record, which plainly evince, that dreams convey a kind of fore-knowledge of what will come to paſs ſome time or other; and as there is hardly a perſon but feels, at ſome period, this phantaſy of the night, a collection of interpretations may not be diſagreeable.

We ſhall introduce our obſervations on this ſubject with two very ſingular circumſtances; the firſt of which is as follows: A labouring man in the country dreamed, that if he came to London, and ſat upon a particular part of London-bridge, he ſhould hear of ſomething which would entirely baniſh his poverty, and fix him above labour and want for the remainder of his life; this dream was repeated for ſeveral ſucceſſive nights, which made ſo ſtrong an impreſſion on his mind, that he determined to go directly to London, and take his ſtation on the bridge, as he was directed in his viſion.

This

This he actually did, and sat from morning till night, for several days together. At length a person taking notice of him, as he passed along, took the liberty to seat himself by his side, and asked the reason of his continually keeping that station, when the countryman told him his dream: "A parcel of nonsense," replied the man; "why I dreamed last night, that close to a great tree in a field, in such a part of the country, there was a great deal of money buried; but I should be a very great fool was I to go above a hundred miles on account of such a dream."

"True," said the countryman, "and I think I will wait no longer."

From what the gentleman said, and the description he gave of the place, the countryman was convinced it was close to his own cottage; and on his return, digging near the supposed tree, absolutely discovered a vast treasure; which made him and his family happy during the remainder of their lives.

The other circumstance is, that two men travelling together, were overtaken by a terrible storm of thunder and lightning, with violent rain, so that they thought it best to take shelter at a public house, and go no farther that night; having supped, and retired to bed, no sooner was one of them asleep, than he dreamed his house was on fire, and his wife and family in great danger; troubled at which, he communicated it to his companion, who bade him not mind it, but try to sleep again; which he did, and had the same dream again, and so a third time; when he determined to get up and go home with all speed, which he did with his companion; when coming to the house, he found the door open, and on entering, two villains were forcing into his wife's chamber, with a dark lanthorn, and a pistol, which they by good fortune secured; so that by this dream he saved his property, and very likely the life of his wife. Wherefore dreams are not to be disregarded.

If

If a young woman dreams ſhe is walking in pleaſant groves, or gardens, ſhe may be certain of marrying the man ſhe loves; but if ſhe dreams the trees and flowers are covered with ſnow, ſhe will be croſſed in love.

If a young man or woman dreams of bad fruit, it is a ſign their ſweethearts are falſe-hearted.

To dream of running ſtreams of water, denotes you will ſhed many tears.

For a maid to dream a young man gives her a glaſs of clear water to drink, ſhews ſhe will have an offer of being well married; and it is the ſame, if a young man dreams the like.

To dream you ſee clear water running by your bedſide, denotes you will gain ſome benefit from a relation or friend.

To dream a raven lights upon your head, is a ſign of death to the dreamer.

To dream you hear a magpye chatter, denotes quarrels and debates.

To dream of a parrot, is a ſign ſome goſſip will belie you.

To dream of the wind blowing and ſhifting about, ſhews you will often change your mind.

To dream of ſailing in a boat on a clear river, is a ſign of love.

For a man to dream he falls into the water of ſome great torrent, is a ſign he will fall in love with a married woman, which will occaſion him much uneaſineſs.

For a maid to dream a young man puts a gold ring on her finger, is a ſure ſign of marriage; and the ſame if he ties on her garter.

To dream the air is ſerene, and ſky blue, but afterwards to be overclouded, and the winds boiſterous, denotes you will be happy when you are firſt married; but after, through poverty and quarrelling, you will lead a very unhappy life.

To dream you ſee an eagle take its flight, is a ſign of proſperity and advancement.

To dream you are in preſence of a lion, is a ſign of honour; and if it fawns upon you, it betokens you will be in favour with ſome great perſonage.

To dream you ſee a lamb killed, is a ſign of grief.

To dream you ſee a couple of milk-white doves, or pigeons, come to your chamber window, is a ſign of ſpeedy marriage.

To dream you ſee a bear, ſignifies a powerful and dangerous enemy.

To dream of an ape, or monkey, ſhews you will receive ſome injury from a cunning miſchievous perſon.

If you dream you are writing a letter, and that you write a very fine hand, is not good; but if you dream you blot, or tear your paper, you will have ſucceſs.

If a married woman dreams ſhe heard the cuckoo ſing, it ſignifies ſome man will endeavour to ſeduce her from her huſband.

To dream you ſee your face in a glaſs, betokens love.

For a perſon to dream they ſee their own back, denotes poverty.

If you dream your ſhoes and ſtockings are worn out, and your feet are dirty, it is a ſign of ſickneſs.

If one dreams of ſeeing a great deal of milk, it ſheweth plenty, as it does likewiſe to dream of corn.

If a young man dreams he rides on a white horſe (which is his own) he will very ſoon be married to a beautiful young lady, and if a young woman dreams it, ſhe will ſpeedily have a handſome rich huſband.

To dream you have white gloves on your hands, denotes much honour.

To dream it rains, denotes getting of riches.

If any one dreams they are cloathed in rich ſilks and lace, it betokens advancement.

To

To dream you pick your ears, is a ſign you will hear ſome news.

To dream you ſee a hen and chickens, is a ſign you will have many children, and have a deal of care upon you to bring them up.

If any one dreams they have got a hamper of eggs, it ſignifies profit and gain; but if they are broken, it is a ſign of loſs in trade.

To dream your teeth drop out, ſheweth the death of relations; and if you dream one of your teeth is longer and more troubleſome than the reſt, it denotes ſtrife and contention among your neareſt kin.

If a man dreams he has loſt his left eye, he will loſe his wife; and if the woman dreams ſhe has loſt her right eye, ſhe will loſe her huſband.

If a perſon dreams their mouth is grown wider and bigger than common, it is a ſure ſign they will grow rich, and keep a great houſe.

To dream a lighted candle ſtands in your chamber, or a clear fire is burning, is a ſign of great love and deſire; and if you dream you ſee any part of the houſe on fire, with a great ſmoke and crackling, it denotes anger, or haſty news.

For one to dream they are dead and buried, denotes great riches, and the more earth was thrown on you, the more money you will get.

To dream a bird flies into your hands, is a ſign of a preſent.

If any one dreams of finding gold, they may be ſure of meeting with a diſappointment.

To dream a dog follows you, betokens a true friend.

To dream you run, ſignifies diſgrace; and if a ſick perſon dreams he runs, it is a ſign of death.

To dream your ſweetheart ſhew's you fine pictures, ſhews he is deceitful.

To dream you drink hot liquor with any one, ſignifies wrangling.

To dream you are drunk, denotes ſickneſs.

To dream you have a fine freſh colour, is a ſign of health and contentment; and to dream you are pale and thin, denotes grief and affliction.

To dream your toes and fingers are ſtrong, betokens many friends to help you.

If you dream the ſun is eclipſed, you will fall from high fortune.

To ſee the moon at the full, ſhews you will have a handſome daughter.

If any one dreams he goes a-fiſhing, it is a ſign of undergoing much labour and toil in his buſineſs; but to dream one makes you a preſent of fiſh, is very good.

If a man dreams of finding a parcel of nuts, he will, by ſome means or other, get a great deal of money.

If a married woman dreams of gathering a great quantity of nuts, it is a ſign that ſhe either is, or ſoon will be pregnant. If ſhe dreams of gathering fruit, which is ready to drop from its ripeneſs, it denotes that her delivery is near at hand.

If either man or woman dreams that a child, or children, are by a river ſide, and narrowly eſcape falling in, it is a ſign they will be violently afflicted with ſome illneſs; but if they dream the child or children abſolutely ſlipped in, and were irrecoverably loſt, it is a certain ſign of death.

To dream you hear the ringing of bells, denotes joy.

To dream of muſic and ſinging, ſignifies grief, eſpecially if you dream you ſing well.

To dream you hear drums beat, is a ſign you will be alarmed at ſomething.

To dream you ſee people cooking, and preparing for a feaſt, is a ſign there is a match making up for you by your friends.

To dream of a heated oven, or of hot bread, denotes you will change your place.

To

To dream of ſhaking hands with any one, is a ſign of friendſhip.

If any one dreams he talks with an enemy, he muſt take care of him.

For one woman to dream ſhe ſalutes another, is a ſign of deceit.

If one dreams of eating ripe oranges, it is a ſign of wounds and bruiſes.

To dream of eating ripe cherries, ſhews the party is in love, and is beloved again.

To dream of ſeeing a rainbow, ſignifies your love will change.

If a young woman dreams of ſeeing faded roſes, ſhe ſtands a chance to die an old maid.

To dream of gathering flowers, denotes a ſhort-lived happineſs.

To hear birds ſing, denotes pleaſure.

To taſte ſweet things, ſignifies flattery.

To dream of a great ſtorm of hail, ſignifies hindrance and obſtruction in your affairs.

To dream you ſee a horſe or hare run ſwift, denotes expedition in buſineſs.

If a woman dreams ſhe ſees a naked man, it ſhews great dread and fear.

To dream of being ſtung by a waſp, ſignifies ſome ſpiteful perſon will injure your character.

To dream of a ſwallow, or any bird of paſſage, ſignifies voyages by ſea.

To dream you hear a nightingale ſing, foretels melancholy.

*Strange Tricks performed by Electricity.*

Among the wonderful diſcoveries of human nature, there is hardly any that rank higher than electricity.

This phenomenon, like many others, was found out merely by accident; yet has proved not only a ſource for various experiments, but likewiſe extremely beneficial to mankind.

The great Dr. Franklin has improved more in this branch of knowledge than any other perſon; he even contrived to bring lightning from the clouds by means of conductors; theſe conductors are of great ſervice when fixed to churches and other public edifices, to preſerve them from the dreadful effects of rapidneſs of elemental fire.

When electricity is made uſe of phyſically, it is of great utility, and has been known to relieve, and ſometimes entirely cure, various diſorders; it is very ſerviceable in the rheumatiſm, and other chronic diſorders.

One circumſtance I ſhall mention, which I received from a gentleman who has been dead ſome years, but whoſe character as an artiſt, and an ingenious perſon, will be a long time remembered; I mean Mr. Benjamin Rackſtrow, of Fleet-ſtreet.

He told me, that having ſome company one day to ſee his muſeum, and his electrical experiments, they were rather fearful of undergoing the ſhock; when a perſon who was much given to inebriety, being in the room, and rather intoxicated, voluntarily offered to let the experiment be tried on him. This was agreed to, upon which he received it pretty ſmartly three or four times, and thought no more about it at that time. A few days afterwards, he had occaſion to go to Chicheſter, in Suſſex, and being rather low in circumſtances, was obliged to walk.

This man had been afflicted many years with a rupture, which was extremely troubleſome, but on this journey he had not the leaſt ſymptoms of it; on which he wrote a letter to Mr. Rackſtrow, informing him of this agreeable circumſtance, and imputing it entirely to his receiving the ſhocks from his electrical apparatus; the man lived to confirm this by word of mouth; and what is really extraordinary, the rupture never returned, which is ſufficient to eſtabliſh its phyſical conſequence. It is of farther ſervice in palſies,

and

and contractions; and is performed by ſparks, drawn by friction from the machine.

Its real uſe being thus eſtabliſhed, we may now, without offending, be a little merry with other circumſtances, which have, and may happen again, by means of electricity.

Some ladies and gentlemen coming to Mr. Rackſtrow's, brought with them a *negro* ſervant, who had not been long in England. After they had ſeen his natural and artificial curioſities, they deſired to ſee ſome of his electrical experiments, and gave him a hint to play a trick or two upon poor Mungo. Mungo was not a little ſurpriſed at the ſhocks he received, but could not gueſs from whence they came; but when the room was darkened, and fire was made to come out of his fingers ends, he roared out like a mad bull, crying, the devil, the devil! and in endeavouring to get out of the room, overſet the ſkeleton of a Rhinoceros, run his head againſt a caſe full of butterflies, and broke all to pieces a fine buſt of the Marquis of Granby; and having once more gained day-light, made a ſudden ſpring into the ſtreet, and run immediately home, to the no ſmall diverſion of his maſter and family.

Mrs. Bulky being troubled with a tympany, was recommended to be electrified. She accordingly went to a profeſſor in that way, who aſked her if ſhe could bear a pretty hard ſhock? O yes, Sir, ſaid ſhe, as hard as you pleaſe, and as often as you pleaſe, I am very fond of being *ſhocked*; the man, by this, ſuppoſed ſhe had before undergone the operation, and was not ſparing to give her, what ſhe ſeemed ſo well to underſtand; but alas! he wound up his inſtrument too high; ſo that he not only overſet his patient, but actually conveyed her into a cellar, where they ſold ox-cheek, and peas-ſoup; down went the ſteaming pan full of ſavory broth, and off flew her monument of a cap into the other boiling cauldron.

The cook reddened like a heated poker, the cuſtomers roſe from their ſeats, and confuſion took place in this ſubterraneous abode.

All culinary buſineſs was at an end for the preſent; the electrical doctor came running to the aſſiſtance of his patient; but as ſoon as the cauſe of the diſaſter was explained, the occupier of the place declared the damages ſhould be made good; her pan of leg of beef was entirely loſt; her peas-ſoup ſpoiled by the powder and pomatum of the lady's head-dreſs; the doctor was the cauſe of all, and he ſhould pay for all; but he declared he would, ſooner than pay a farthing, electrify the houſe till it fell about their ears.

At laſt the lady, however, having adjuſted herſelf in the beſt manner ſhe could, gave the good woman a crown, and ſo compromiſed the matter; however, it cured her of her tympany, for ſhe never went to the doctor afterwards.

Many are the tricks played by means of an electrifying machine; a perſon in the city had one in his ſhop, which was not ſeen by the paſſers by; he hung at the door an old ſteelyard, which, from its make, ſeemed to be very ancient; this attracted the notice of many, who no ſooner went to examine it, than they received the ſhock; thoſe who knew what it was only ſmiled, and went on; others ſtared and could not gueſs from whence it came.

A drunken porter being called one day, and aſked what he would have to carry the ſteelyard to a certain place, went to examine it, but he no ſooner touched it than he felt a blow; and turning round, with an oath, declared if he knew who it was, he would pay them well for their impudence. He then returned to ſpeak about his job, and received another ſhock, and another after that, till irritated by the ſuppoſed aſſaults, given by he could not tell who, he ſtripped in buff to fight all that came in his way, till he got a mob of boys and dogs at his heels, and was glad to get away at any rate.

Such

Such tricks are not recommended as proper to be practiſed, for they are really dangerous; a ſtrange perſon might, on finding the truth, break the windows, or keep it in his mind, and do the electrifying gentleman an injury, which might make him repent of his experiments.

Small electrical machines are often introduced in company, and create not only mirth, but produce real rational amuſement; ſuch can never be diſagreeable, but muſt give ſatisfaction to all who have any idea of philoſophical knowledge, and wiſh to improve their minds by mathematical experiments; to all ſuch we may ſafely recommend the electrical apparatus, which will be both uſeful and profitable.

*How to terrify ſuch as are entirely unacquainted with the Nature of Phoſphorus.*

Phoſphorus is a chemical preparation from human excrement; and is, in fact, a perpetual fire; its uſes are many, and have been explained by moſt of the greateſt philoſophers; it muſt be continually kept in water, or it will conſume itſelf; it is a very dear commodity, and therefore few can afford to play tricks with it, yet they are to be done in a very terrifying manner.

If you would frighten a perſon who is ignorant of the means you make uſe of, take phoſphorus and write upon a wall, or ſome place you know the party will paſs in the dark; the words may be juſt what you pleaſe, ſo that they be applicable to the perſon you intend to fright: you may likewiſe draw ſtrange pictures of dragons, or devils, with words coming out of their mouths, with phoſphorus, which, in the dark, will appear all on fire, have a moſt frightful appearance, and ſtrike wonder in the beholders. This kind of diverſion ſhould, however, be cautiouſly practiſed, as weak minds may be terrified into fits, or perhaps be deprived of their ſenſes for ever, as think-

ing it to be the work of ſome diabolical agent. There is one inſtance preſerved, in which this experiment proved of real benefit. A very profane wretch, ſeeing ſomething of the kind, reflecting on his wickedneſs, and not knowing how it was done, became very good, left off his former vicious courſe of life, and performed the duties of a worthy member of ſociety. So far the trick was to be applauded, but the ſucceſs of it could not be known till it was tried.

Phoſphorus, though dangerous in unſkilful hands, may be converted to various uſeful purpoſes; it may ſerve in the night, to procure, on any emergency, a light, much ſooner than with flint and ſteel, as it will ſet fire to a match immediately. Theſe and many other uſes, are what render it valuable, notwithſtanding, as a curioſity, it has hardly its equal.

*How to ſhoot a Bird flying, with a Gun loaded with Powder; and to bring it to Life again.*

Load your gun with the uſual charge of powder, but inſtead of ſhot put half a charge of quickſilver; prime and ſhoot: if your piece bears ever ſo little near the bird, it will find itſelf ſtunned and benumbed to ſuch a degree, as to fall to the ground in a fit. As it will regain its ſenſes in a few minutes, you may make uſe of the time by ſaying, that you are going to bring it to life again; this will aſtoniſh greatly the company; the ladies will no doubt intereſt themſelves in favour of the bird, and intercede for its liberty: ſympathizing with their feelings for the little priſoner, may be the means of ſome of them ſympathizing with yours.

*The Sympathetic Lamp.*

This lamp is placed on a table, you get to a diſtance to blow through a tube, without directing the air towards the ſpot where it is, yet nevertheleſs the lamp is extinguiſhed, as if you blew it out.

EXPLANA-

## EXPLANATION.

This lamp has in its baſe a ſmall bellows, the wind of which is, by a little tube, conveyed to the flame. The confederate, by moving the levers hid in the table, puts in motion the bellows to extinguiſh the lamp, at the moment it is required.

*N. B.* You may do this trick without a bellows. In the baſe of the lamp it would ſucceed by having a ſpring to draw the wick into the ſocket, when the lever is moved in the table, by which means you may make it appear or diſappear at pleaſure.

### *The Reſurrection of the dead Bird.*

One of the three eggs which has danced on the cane, have been broken to ſhew all was fair, you take the two others which were left on the table, one of which is choſen by the company, and on breaking it, a Canary bird alive is found within: a lady of the company is requeſted to take it in her hands, and ſhortly after the bird dies—you take it again for a moment to put it under a glaſs on the table—in a few minutes you take up the glaſs, and the bird flies off.

## EXPLANATION.

You muſt empty two eggs, and take half of the ſhell of each, and adjuſt the two halves together by the aſſiſtance of a ſmall bit of paper, which you glue in the form of a zone or equator:—Being ſo arranged, they repreſent an egg, and are capable to hold a Canary bird, provided you make a ſmall pin hole to ſupply the bird with air.—When you deliver the bird to the perſon who is to hold it, you kill it by the preſſure of your thumb and fore finger--you afterwards put it under a glaſs which covers ſuch a trap, and your confederate ſubſtitutes a living bird in the place of the dead one.

*N. B.* Not

*N. B.* Not to fail in your trick, when you preſent the two eggs for one to be choſen, if you have not a living bird in each, you muſt put the egg which contains the bird next to the lady who is to chuſe; ſhe naturally chuſes the neareſt to her, becauſe having no idea of the trick to be performed, there is no apparent reaſon to take the one further off; at any rate, if the wrong one is taken, you do not fail in the trick; for you break the egg and ſay, "you ſee that this egg "is fair and freſh, Madam; ſo you would have found "the other if you had choſen it. Now do you chuſe "to find in it a mouſe or a Canary bird?" She naturally declares for the bird; nevertheleſs, if ſhe aſks for the mouſe, there are means to eſcape. You aſk the ſame queſtions of ſeveral ladies, and gather the majority of votes, which, in all probability, will be in favour of the bird; but if after all, the voices are for the mouſe, what can you then do, having only a bird to produce? Courteous reader, after all we have already ſaid, if you fear to fail in your trick, and that your genius does not ſupply you a better artifice, make uſe of this one; pretend not to pay attention to thoſe who wiſh for the little quadrupede, addreſs yourſelf to one who wiſhes for the bird, and aſk them if they chuſe it dead or alive? and be in readineſs to kill it in caſe of neceſſity.

### *A Piece of Money ſhut up in a Box, which comes out of itſelf without being touched by any one.*

A perſon is required to hold a box, into which is put before his eyes a piece of money or a ring: you ſtand at a diſtance and bid him ſhake the box gently, the piece is heard to rattle within ſide—he is deſired again to ſhake it, and then it is not heard to rattle. The third time it is again heard, but the fourth time it is gone, and is found in the ſhoe of one of the company.

EXPLANA-

## EXPLANATION.

The box muſt be made on purpoſe, we will not deſcribe it here, becauſe all the performers of tricks ſell them; that one which has cauſed ſuch wonder at Paris and London, only differs from the others as being ſomewhat better made, and belonging to a perſon who embelliſhes his tricks with all poſſible advantages. This box is made in ſuch a manner, that in ſhaking it gently up and down, the piece within is heard: on the contrary, ſhaking it hard horizontally, a little ſpring which falls on the piece, prevents it from being heard, which makes you imagine it is not within. He who performs the trick then touches the box, under pretence of ſhewing how to ſhake it, and although it is locked, he eaſily gets out the piece, by means of a ſecret opening, availing himſelf of that minute to put in a falſe piece, and to leave the box with the ſame perſon: and he cauſes you to believe either that the piece is or is not within, according to the manner the box is ſhaken; at length the original piece is found in the ſhoe of one of the company, either by means of the perſon being in confederacy, and furniſhing him with a ſimilar piece, or by ſending ſome expert perſon to ſlip it on the floor—in this laſt caſe, it is found on the ground, and you perſuade the perſon it fell from his foot as he took it out of his ſhoe.

### *An artificial Spider, which moves by Electricity.*

Take a bit of burnt cork, as big as a pea; give it the ſhape of a ſpider; make its legs with threads of hemp; put a grain of lead in the cork to give it ſome weight; then hang this artificial ſpider by a bit of grey ſewing ſilk (that is not twiſted) between two bodies, the one electrified and the other not; or between two bodies endowed with different electricities: it will go and come between theſe two bodies, and the

the movement of the legs will be ſeen as plain as if it were a living ſpider.

This artificial ſpider, if well made, will aſtoniſh thoſe who ſee it move ſo naturally.

*Sympathetic Inks.*

Theſe kinds of inks are very curious, and may ſerve for a great number of phyſical recreations, very ſurpriſing to ſuch as are not acquainted with the manner of preparing them.

One kind, very eaſy, is made by taking an ounce of common aqua fortis, which you are to mix with three ounces of common water; you will uſe this mixture to write on paper that is ſtrong and very ſtiff: this writing becomes totally inviſible in drying; and in order to make it re-appear, you need only wet the paper; and when it dries, the writing diſappears again. This effect may be repeated two or three times.

This proceſs is the eaſieſt to be done, as the neceſſary ingredients are almoſt always at hand.

Many other things furniſh the means of making ſympathetic ink, ſuch as cobalt, biſmuth, lime, &c. &c. but they require chemical and difficult preparations to be efficient.

The eaſieſt to be obtained are mentioned before; as the mixture of aqua fortis and common water; and thoſe that may be formed by diſſolutions of ſalt and acids, ſuch as lemon or onion juice: in order to render them viſible, you need only approach them to the fire; the cold air produces on them the contrary effect.

*A Trick with Cards; uniting the double Advantage of being very eaſy and infallible, it being on a little numerical Combination.*

Deſire ſome perſon in the company to chuſe, at his will, three cards out of a piquet pack, obſerving to him, that the ace is to be counted for eleven points,

the

the court cards ten, and the other cards according to the points they mark.

When he has made his choice, desire him to lay on the table his three cards separately, and to put upon each parcel as many cards as are wanting to make up fifteen points; that is to say, if the first card should be a nine, there must be added six cards over; if the second a ten, five cards; and if the third a knave, five cards likewise; this will make nineteen cards employed; consequently there will remain thirteen, which you are to ask for; and pretending to examine them, you must count them, in order to be certain of the number that is left; then in your mind add sixteen to the remaining number, and you will have twenty-nine, the number of the points that the three chosen cards under the parcels contain.

*To take a Bird out of a Cage, and make it appear as dead, or to roll it about as you please.*

Those of moderate understandings are easier to be deceived, as the great Lord Chesterfield observes, in his letters to his son, "mankind are easier deceived "than undeceived:" and if it was not so, half the jugglers would want employment, and the multitude would not croud so often to see their wonders! wonders! and wonders! as performed, and puffed away by that great philosopher Katterfelto, and his black cat, and others of the same class; but as those who have money are willing to accommodate those who have none, others have art enough to conjure it out of their pockets; the world will be always supplied with some of both sorts, and it is no matter how, so that money does but circulate; and tricks of the most simple kind will often attract the notice of the croud, who throw away their sixpences, shillings, and half-crowns, for the benefit of those who want.

This trick is one of that sort which wants no great skill in performing, yet has gained no little share of applause, both in town and country.

Take

Take any bird out of a cage, and lay it on the table, then take a ſmall feather, and wave over its eyes, and it will immediately appear as dead, but by taking the feather away it will revive again; let it lay hold of the ſtem part of the feather with its feet, and it will twiſt and turn about like a parrot; you may likewiſe roll it about on the table juſt as you pleaſe: that the feather is the cauſe of all this ſtrange appearance is without doubt, but why it ſhould be ſo, is a ſecret which will not be diſcovered till we can underſtand the bird language, which has been loſt ever ſince Adam was expelled the garden of Eden. To ſay more on theſe ſubjects would be unneceſſary, and only tire the reader's patience; theſe ſpecimens will be ſufficient to inſtruct him, that all performances of this kind are inventions carried on by ſlight and deception; that the exhibitors are no more conjurers than other folks, only through practice; and that any one might ſoon be capable of the ſame, did they beſtow their time and attention on things of ſo trifling a nature.

### *The learned little Swan, one of Mr.* BRESLAW'S *Grand Deceptions.*

Deceptions in the mathematics are generally the moſt ſurpriſing, and ſtrike the fancy in an aſtoniſhing manner; theſe, though moſt of them are commonly known, never fail to ſecure applauſe.

Mr. Breſlaw has been uncommonly ſucceſsful in this way. Whether he gained his knowledge by dint of application and ſtudy, an acquaintance with ſcience, or whether he has collected them from different maſters in the ſame art, is not for me to determine; it is ſufficient to ſay, that ſkill has met with reward, as well as praiſe. Not that ſuch things are of any real ſervice to the community, or are to be recommended as neceſſary qualifications to complete an education, yet there can be no manner of harm in being acquainted with them. Real ſcience lifts its eye to nobler purſuits,

purſuits, yet it may not be amiſs to relax ſometimes with curious trifles. This fancy I am going to relate is one of the principal of the kind. A large marble or china bowl is painted withinſide the rim, with the letters contained in the alphabet. A ſmall artificial ſwan is ſet to ſwim in the centre of the water it contains—the performer bids any one call for a letter; upon naming the letter, the ſwan quits its ſtation in the middle, and goes directly to the letter mentioned; or if it is deſired, will pick out the whole of what compoſes your name. This, no doubt, is looked upon with aſtoniſhment! to think that a thing inanimate, made of a bit of painted cork, ſhould be capable of ſuch things.

But this amazement will vaniſh, when it is known, that a ſmall ſteel or iron pin is fixed withinſide the ſwan, and that the performer has a magnet in his pocket, by which means as he moves round the table, it attracts the ſwan to every letter where it is wanted to ſtop at, till it forms the name of whatever is required.

The nature of the magnet being known, many curious experiments have been made with it; a knife or any other piece of iron touched with the load-ſtone, will bring up nails or needles out of a pail of water, or by rubbing round the outſide on the bottom of a pewter plate, will cauſe needles, or any thing made of iron or ſteel, to dance and move about juſt as you direct it on the outſide.—The performer, ſecure as he thought himſelf in this device, was a little diſconcerted one evening in the Haymarket. The late Sir Francis Blake Delaval, going to ſee his exhibition, took a magnet in his pocket, and facing Mr. Breſlaw on the oppoſite ſide the table, the ſwan between the two attractive inſtruments became fixed in the middle; the artiſt perceiving he could not perform as uſual, exclaimed there was ſomebody in the room was in the ſecret, and who counteracted his intention.—Sir Francis

 ſmiled,

ſmiled, ſhewed his magnet, and the trick became no longer wonderful, and the audience were no longer amazed at his abilities; ſo that he was obliged to ſeek for freſh matter to ſupply the place of his little cygnet.

Strange ſtories are related of the virtues and powers of the loadſtone, one of which we ſhall relate for its ſingularity,

A gentleman travelling in foreign parts, happened to be benighted, far from any place of accommodation; to avoid the drearineſs of the night, in a ſtrange place, he thought it adviſable to ſeek for ſome ſhelter, and having diſcovered a cave, he diſmounted his horſe, whom he faſtened by the bridle on the outſide of the cave, and then went in and laid himſelf down in his clothes, and being much fatigued fell faſt aſleep, nor did he awake till the day-light appeared, when, to his great aſtoniſhment, he found himſelf ſuſpended by the heels from the roof of the cave. He made many efforts to free himſelf from ſo diſagreeable a ſituation, when at length he ſhuffled his legs out of his boots, and came to the ground almoſt ſtunned with the fall; when looking up, he perceived the cauſe of this diſaſter was owing to the cave being formed out of a rock of load-ſtone, and he having ſteel ſpurs on, was attracted up in the manner deſcribed. ſome ſay the boots are hanging there yet: others ſeriouſly relate, that the coffin of Mahomet, which is iron, is ſuſpended in the temple of Mecca between two loadſtones, and ſeems to hang only in air, which the bigotted muſſelmen look upon as a miracle.

*How to make a Cat draw a Fellow through a Pond of Water.*

To perform this, you muſt place the fellow on one ſide of the pond, and the cat on the other; then take a ſtrong rope and tie about the fellow's middle, and the other end of the rope tie to the cat; and then have

have the rope to reach farther behind ſome tree, and there let two luſty fellows have hold of the rope, and when the wager is laid, then whip the cat, whilſt the two fellows behind the tree pull as hard as they can.

*How to pull innumerable Ribbons out of your Mouth, of what Colour you pleaſe.*

As for pulling ribbons out of your mouth, it is ſomewhat a ſtale jeſt, whereby jugglers get money from maids by ſelling laces by the yard, putting into their mouth one round bottom as faſt as they pull out another, and at the exact end of every yard they tie a knot, ſo as the ſame reſts upon their teeth, then they cut off the ſame, and ſo the beholders are doubly and trebly deceived, ſeeing as much lace as will fill a hat, and the ſame of what colour you liſt, to be drawn ſo by even yards out of your mouth, and yet the juggler to talk as though there were nothing in his mouth.

*How to make Water freeze by the Fire-ſide.*

This feat can be done or performed only in winter, and at ſuch times as ſnow may be had, and he that will ſhew it, muſt have in readineſs a handful of ſalt; the time ſerving, and the party being provided, let him call for a joint ſtool, a quart pot, a handful of ſnow, a little water, and a ſhort ſtaff; firſt let him pour a little water upon the ſtool, and upon it let him ſet the quart pot, and put the ſnow into the pot, the ſalt alſo, but privately; then let him hold the pot faſt with his left-hand, and therewith churn the ſnow and ſalt in the pot, as if one ſhould churn butter, and in half a quarter of an hour the pot will freeze ſo hard to the ſtool, that you can ſcarcely with both hands pull it off from the ſtool.

*How to command ſeven Halfpence through a Table.*

This feat is one of the greateſt that the jugglers have, and is inferior to none. To do this you muſt

go to ſome tinman, or any body that knows how to make your holes room enough for a die to go in and out, and then let them clap a good halfpenny upon them all, and ſo make them faſt, and nobody can tell them from true ones; then you muſt get a cap to cover your halfpence, a cap and a die for the company to fling to amuſe them: when you are thus provided with halfpence, a cap and a die, the manner of performance is thus: deſire any body in the company to lend you ſeven halfpence, telling them that you will ſoon return them their own again; make the figure of a die, and the faſhion of ſeven halfpence, and a cap to cover them; then ſay, "Gentlemen, this is made juſt fit for your money;" then clapping your cap on, deſire ſomebody in the company to fling that die, to ſee what they can fling, and in ſo doing, take off the cap and convey your falſe money into the cap, ſo that the company may not ſee you put it in; then with your cap cover the die, ſo with your right-hand take up the true money, and put it into the left under the table, ſaying, "Vada, be gone, I command the die to be "gone, and the money to come in the place;" ſo take up the cap and the die is gone, and the money is come; covering the money again with the cap, taking the true money with your right-hand, and knocking under the table, make a jingling as though the money was coming through the table, then flinging them on the table, ſay, "There is the money," and with your right-hand take off the cap, ſaying, "And there is "the die;" ſo convey the falſe money into your lap, and there is the cap likewiſe. This is an ingenious feat, if well handled.

*To faſten a Ring or Sixpence at the End of a Piece of common Thread, and after burning the Thread, leave the Ring hanging at the End of it.*

There are many ways to deceive the eye, which are not eaſily accounted for, at a diſtance from the audience,

audience, as they cannot (however quick-ſighted) penetrate into the myſtery; and when they are brought ſo near as to be examined, even by the touch, and yet to remain in the dark, the wonder becomes greater. The trick I am going to relate is one of the laſt mentioned ſort, and has puzzled many of the moſt learned in thoſe matters for ſeveral years.

A Palatine girl uſed to make a comfortable livelihood, and even ſupported her parents, by going from public-houſe to public-houſe, and exhibiting the following device:

She tied a ring or ſixpence to the end of a piece of thread, which was ſuſpended from a pin, placed for that purpoſe, and let any one ſet fire to the thread, which, to all appearance, was burnt to aſhes, and yet the ring remained hanging to the end of it. This was eagerly ſought after by all the great maſters in the legerdemain art, but without ſucceſs; the moment they made the experiment, and the thread was burnt, the ring fell to the ground; they were confounded; and the more they tried, the more they were at a loſs.

Many offered to purchaſe the ſecret from the girl, but ſhe remained inflexible; ſhe rightly conſidered that a trifling ſum for the preſent would deprive her of her future livelihood; but fate at laſt contrived againſt her fortune. She was taken ill, and being deſtitute of even the common neceſſaries of life, was prevailed upon to communicate the whole of her art to the celebrated Mr. *Jonas*, who generouſly rewarded her with half a guinea.

This trick, which really is ſurpriſing, is done by the moſt ſimple means imaginable; all the art lies in preparing the thread, which is done as follows: ſhe uſed to ſoak the thread in ſalt and water for ſome time, and then dry it before the fire; the ſaline particles adhering to the thread, though imperceptible, immediately caught the flame of the candle, and burnt like ſo much tow, yet although it ſeemed to burn, it really

preſerved the body of the thread, which remained firm, and undiminiſhed; yet, when touched it became pulveriſed, and crumbled to aſhes: thus from the moſt ſimple things the moſt aſtoniſhing performances are exhibited. It is left to thoſe moſt converſant in chemiſtry to inveſtigate the nature of ſalt, and ſhew why it ſhould act in ſuch a manner as before deſcribed. Perhaps, if the curious were to ſearch with care, many more extraordinary experiments might be made, not only to amuſe the ſight, but to inſtruct and improve the mind, and become an univerſal benefit to the world in general.

*The Art of Fortune-telling by Cards.*

Take a pack of cards, and making yourſelf which queen you pleaſe, lay them out on a table, nine of a row, and wherever you find yourſelf placed, count nine cards every way, making yourſelf one, and then you will ſee what card you tell to, and whatever that is will happen to you. If the two red tens are by you, it is a ſign of marriage, the ace of diamonds is a ring, the ace of hearts is your houſe, the ace of clubs is a letter, the ace of ſpades is death, ſpite or quarrelling (for that is the worſt card in the pack), the ten of diamonds is a journey, the three of hearts is a kiſs, the three of ſpades is tears, the ten of ſpades is ſickneſs, the nine of ſpades a diſappointment, the nine of clubs a merry-making, the nine of hearts feaſting, the ten of clubs going by water, the ten of hearts ſome place of amuſement, the five of hearts a preſent, the five of clubs a bundle, the ſix of ſpades a child, the ſeven of ſpades a removal, the three of clubs fighting, the eight of clubs confuſion, the eight of ſpades a roadway, the four of clubs a ſtrange bed, the nine of diamonds buſineſs, the five of diamonds a ſettlement, the five of ſpades a ſurpriſe; the two red eights new clothes, the three of diamonds ſpeaking with a friend, the

the four of ſpades a ſick-bed, the ſeven of clubs a priſon, the two of ſpades a falſe friend, the four of hearts a marriage bed; when ſeveral diamonds come together, it is a ſign of money; ſeveral hearts, love; ſeveral clubs, drink; and ſeveral ſpades, vexation.

If a married woman lays the cards, ſhe muſt make her huſband the king of the ſame ſuit ſhe is queen of; but if a ſingle woman tries it, ſhe may make her ſweetheart what king ſhe likes; the knaves of the ſame ſuit are the men's thoughts: ſo you may know what they are thinking of, by telling nine cards from where they are placed, making them one; and if any one chuſes to try if ſhe ſhall have her wiſh, let her ſhuffle the cards well (as ſhe muſt likewiſe when ſhe tells her fortune), wiſhing all the time for ſome one thing: ſhe muſt then cut them once, and minding what card ſhe cuts, ſhuffle them again, and then deal them out into three parcels, which done, look over every parcel, and if the card you cut comes next yourſelf, or next the ace of hearts, you will have your wiſh; but if the nine of ſpades is next, you will not, for that is a diſappointment; however, you may try it three times.

This method of telling fortunes is innocent, and much better than for a young woman to tell her ſecrets to a fortune-teller, who can inform her no better, if ſhe pays a ſhilling for the intelligence.

*To extinguiſh two Wax Candles, and light two others, diſtant about three Feet, by firing off a Piſtol, loaded with Powder, as uſual.*

Nothing is more ſimple than the operation which produces this ſupernatural effect.

1ſt. Get ſome whole wax candles, and let them be recently ſnuffed.

2d. You are to put in the middle of the wick of thoſe candles to be lighted, about the ſize of a millet grain of phoſphorus: to do which, divide the wick with

with a pin or a toothpick; then place yourſelf at five or ſix feet diſtance from them, and fire your piſtol at the lighted candles, which will be extinguiſhed by the powder, whilſt it will make the phoſphorus take fire, which will light the other two.

You may likewiſe light a wax candle, on the wick of which phoſphorus has been applied, according to the foregoing method, by means of a ſword well heated in a near room. You need only preſent the point of the ſword to the wick of the candle, commanding it to light.

*N. B.* Obſerve that you are not to touch the phoſphorus with your fingers; but take the point of a knife, or a pair of ſmall pincers. You muſt take care alſo, that the wick of the candle is cold before you put the phoſphorus to it; without this precaution it would take fire immediately.

*To cut a Looking-glaſs, or Piece of Cryſtal, let it be ever ſo thick, without the Help of a Diamond, in the ſame Shape as the Mark of the Drawing made on it with Ink.*

This remarkable operation unites utility with amuſement. For being in the country, or in a place where there is no glazier nor glaſsman to be had, the following means will anſwer the purpoſe without their help.

Take a bit of a walnut-tree, about the thickneſs of a candle, and cut one of its ends to a point; put that end in the fire, and let it burn till it is quite red. While the ſtick is burning, draw on the glaſs or cryſtal with ink, the deſign or outline of the form in which you mean to cut it out. Then take a file or a bit of glaſs, and ſcratch a little the place where you mean to begin your ſection; then take the wood red hot from the fire, and lay the point of it about the twentieth part of an inch, or thickneſs of a guinea, from the marked place; taking care to blow always on that point

point in order to keep it red; follow the drawing traced on the glaſs, leaving, as before, about the twentieth part of an inch interval every time that you preſent your piece of wood, which you muſt take care to blow often.

After having followed exactly the outlines of your drawing, to ſeparate the two pieces thus cut, you need only pull them up and down, and they will divide.

*To melt a Piece of Steel as if it was Lead, without requiring a very great Fire.*

Take a piece of ſteel and put it in a crucible; then throw in a handful of antimony in powder: as ſoon as your crucible begins to be red, your piece of ſteel will melt like lead.

Pour it afterwards into an earthen veſſel, or a wedge-mould, to ſhew the company your operation has ſucceeded as you had promiſed.

*Another Method of melting Steel, and to ſee it liquify.*

Make a piece of ſteel quite red in the fire; then holding it with a pair of pincers or tongs, take in the other hand a ſtick of brimſtone, and touch the piece of ſteel with it; immediately after their contact, you will ſee the ſteel melt and drop like a liquid.

*To unite Wax and Water (Things abſolutely oppoſite to each other) this Union made in the twentieth Part of a Minute, forms a good Pomatum to clean the Skin, and render it ſoft and white. It is a fine Coſmetic.*

In order to make this mixture (uſeful for many things) put in a glazed earthen pot, quite new, ſix ounces of ſpring or river water, to two ounces of good white virgin wax; add to this a good pinch of ſalt of tartar. If you wiſh to conceal your operation, nothing is eaſier: make a little roll or ſtick of wax, in which you will introduce a pinch of ſalt of tartar;

put

put theſe ingredients on the fire, and when they begin to heat, be attentive to ſtir them with a little ſtick, and you will ſee the union take place as ſoon as the wax melts; you will then have it at your option to render the pomatum, by the reſult of this operation, more or leſs liquid, by leaving it on the fire more or leſs time.

*To make a Ring ſhift from one Hand to another, and to make it go on whatever Finger is required on the other Hand, while ſomebody holds both your Arms, in order to prevent any Communication between them.*

Deſire ſome perſon in the company to lend you a gold ring, recommending him at the ſame time to make a mark on it, that he might know it again.

Have a gold ring of your own, which you are to faſten by a ſmall catgut ſtring to a watch-barrel, which muſt be ſown to the left ſleeve of your coat.

Take in your right-hand the ring that will be given to you; then taking with dexterity near the entrance of your ſleeve the other ring faſtened to the watch-barrel, draw it to the fingers ends of your left-hand, taking care nobody perceives it: during this operation, hide between the fingers of your right-hand the ring that has been lent to you, and hang it dexterouſly on a little hook ſewed on purpoſe on your waiſtcoat near your hip, and hid by your coat; you will after that ſhew your ring which you hold in your left-hand; then aſk the company on which finger of the other hand they wiſh it to paſs. During this interval, and as ſoon as the anſwer has been given, put the before mentioned finger on the little hook, in order to ſlip on it the ring; at the ſame moment let go the other ring, by opening your fingers: the ſpring which is in the watch-barrel, not being confined any longer, will contract, and make the ring ſlip under the ſleeve, without any body perceiving it, not even thoſe who hold your arms, as their only attention being to pre-

vent

vent your hands from communicating, they will let you make the neceſſary motions. Theſe motions muſt be very quick, and always accompanied by ſtamping with your foot.

After this operation, ſhew the aſſembly that the ring is come on the other hand: make them remark well that it is the ſame that had been lent you, or that the mark is right.

Much quickneſs and dexterity muſt be made uſe of to ſucceed in this entertaining trick, that the deception may not be ſuſpected.

*A Philoſophical Muſhroom.*

Among the numerous and ſurpriſing phenomena produced by different chymical proceedings, one of the moſt curious is certainly that of the inflammation of eſſential oils, by the mixture of nitrous acid. It is certainly aſtoniſhing to ſee a cold liquor taking fire on pouring another cold liquor on it; ſuch are the means by which one may form in three minutes the muſhroom, called the philoſophical muſhroom.

In order to make this extraordinary and entertaining experiment, you muſt provide yourſelf with a glaſs, having a large foot, the baſis of this glaſs is to terminate in a point.

Put in the glaſs an ounce of ſpirits of nitre, well rarified; then pour over it an ounce of eſſential oil of guaiacum, this mixture will produce a very conſiderable ferment, attended with ſmoak, out of which there will riſe, in the ſpace of three minutes, a ſpungy body, reſembling perfectly a common muſhroom.

This ſpungy ſubſtance, formed by the fat and oily particles of the guaiacum wood, being drawn up by the air, covers itſelf with a very thin coat of the matter that compoſes the oil of guaiacum.

*To make a Room ſeem all on Fire, mighty dreadful to behold.*

Take ſal armoniac half an ounce, camphire one ounce, aqua vitæ two ounces, put them into an earthen pot,

pot, in the faſhion of a chamber-pot, but narrow ſomething upon the top; then ſet fire to it, and the room will ſeem to them that are in it to be all on fire; nay, themſelves will ſlap their hair and clothes, thinking they are all on fire, when there is nobody hurt unleſs it be with fright. Have a care of ſhewing a woman with child in the room, for you yourſelf would be frighted if you did not know the trick.

*How to burn a Thread, and to make it whole again with the Aſhes.*

It is not one of the worſt tricks to burn a thread handſomely, and make it whole again; the manner whereof is this: take two threads or ſmall laces, of one foot in length a-piece, roll up one of them round, which will be then about the bigneſs of a pea, put the ſame between your left fore-finger and your thumb, then take the other thread, and hold it forth at length betwixt your fore-finger and thumb of each hand, holding all your fingers daintily, as young gentlewomen are taught to hold up a morſel of meat; then let one cut aſunder the ſame thread in the middle; when that is done, put the tops of your two thumbs together, and ſo ſhall you with leſs ſuſpicion receive the piece of thread which you hold in your right-hand, into your left, without opening your left-finger and thumb; then holding theſe two pieces as you did before it was cut, let theſe two be cut alſo aſunder in the midſt, and they conveyed again as before, until they be very ſhort, and then roll all thoſe ends together, and keep that ball of thread before the other in the left-hand, and with a knife thruſt the ſame into a candle, where you may hold it until the ſaid ball of thread be burnt to aſhes; then pull back the knife with your right-hand, and leave the aſhes with the other ball, betwixt your fore-finger and thumb of your left-hand, and with the two thumbs and two fore-fingers together take pains to rub the aſhes till your thread

thread be renewed, and draw out that thread at length, which you lay all this while betwixt your fore-finger and thumb. This is not inferior to any juggler's trick, if it be well handled; for if you are ſo perfect in *legerdemain*, as to beſtow the ſame ball of thread, and to change it from place to place, betwixt your other fingers, as may be eaſily done, then will it ſeem very ſtrange.

Having gone through moſt of ſuch things which are eſteemed rare, in chemiſtry, geography, anatomy, and the mathematics, we ſhall now proceed to other matters, which, though perhaps not ſo curious, we flatter ourſelves will be thought no leſs entertaining to the reader.

*To make a Perſon tumble and toſs all Night, and not be able to Sleep.*

If a fellow-ſervant is ill-natured, and given to tell tales and create miſchief, make uſe of the following trick: get ſome roach allum, and pound it very ſmall, and ſprinkle it in his or her bed; or elſe a little cow-itch, or horſe-hair cut very fine, either will anſwer the ſame purpoſe, and it will cauſe the perſon to be ſo reſtleſs, that they will not be able to get the leaſt ſleep.

*A whimſical Trick to make Sport in Company.*

Take ſalt petre one ounce, ~~cream~~ of tartar one ounce, ſulphur half an ounce, beat them to powder ſingly, then mix them together, and put the powder in a paper in your pocket; you may then, at any time you pleaſe, convey a grain into a pipe of tobacco, and when it takes fire it will give the report of a muſket, but not break the pipe; or you may put as much as will lay upon your nail in any place, upon little bits of paper, and ſetting fire to it, there will be the report of ſo many great guns, but it will not produce any bad effect.

*How to knit a Knot upon a Handkerchief, and to undo the ſame with Words.*

Make one plain looſe knot with the two corner ends of a handkerchief, with ſeeming to draw the ſame very hard; hold faſt the body of the ſaid handkerchief near to the knot with your right-hand, pulling the contrary end with your left-hand, which is the corner of that which you hold; then cloſe up handſomely the knot, which will be ſomewhat looſe, and pull the handkerchief ſo with your right-hand, as the left-hand may be near to the knot, then it will ſeem to be a true and firm knot; and to make it appear more aſſuredly to be ſo indeed, let a ſtranger pull at the end which you hold in your left-hand, while you hold faſt the other in your right-hand, and then holding the knot with your fore-finger and thumb, and the lower part of your handkerchief with your other finger, as you hold a bridle, when you would with one hand ſlip up the knot, and lengthen the reins; this done, turn your handkerchief over the knot with the left-hand, in doing whereof you muſt ſuddenly ſlip out the end or corner, putting up the knot of your handkerchief with your fore-finger and thumb, as you would put the aforeſaid knot of your bridle; then deliver the ſame covered and wrapped within the midſt of the handkerchief to one to hold faſt, and after the pronunciation of ſome words of art, take the handkerchief and ſhake it, and it will be looſe.

*How to rub out Twenty Chalks at five Times, rubbing out every Time an odd one.*

Tricks of this kind are more generally the diverſion of low mechanics, who having ſtudied what is trifling, more than what is uſeful, fancy themſelves conjurors, and not a little proud; often affront and inſult thoſe of ſuperior knowledge, always ready to lay wagers, when in their cups, offer five to one, ten to one, or

any

any odds that comes uppermoſt, that none can do the like but themſelves; yet ſometimes theſe cunning men find themſelves at a loſs, when they meet with a perſon who is equally knowing, who makes their pockets pay for their boaſting. From theſe ſorts of wagers ariſe quarrels; for if one is not equal to another in point of calculation, he thinks he may be in point of manhood; a challenge is given and accepted; and the combatants, fierce as bull-dogs, begin throwing their athletic arms at each other, the ſtones are rammed deeper with their falls, the noiſy attendants make confuſion aſhamed with their vociferous clamouring. "Well ſtruck Dick, that was a "nice one, Tom, at him again, under his ribs, darken "his day-lights, mind your points, find out his bread-"baſket, tip him Slack's favourite, give him a croſs-"buttock, and come Ben-boſle over his jaw-bone. "Huzza! huzza! huzza!" then the valiant heroes encouraged by their friends, the rabble, bruiſe one another's fleſh, and at laſt, the victor, perhaps, gains for his triumph, a black eye, bloody noſe, and diſlocated jaw: and all his comfort is, that his antagoniſt has the ſame ſort of honour doubled. After all this, a few tankards of porter make them friends; but their wives and families are the greateſt ſufferers, who are at home pining in rags and want, while their huſbands are loſing their time and abuſing themſelves.

The following trick is one of thoſe moſt in practice among them.

To do this trick you muſt make twenty chalks or long ſtrokes upon a board.

Then begin and count backwards, as 20, 19, 18, 17, rub out theſe four; then proceed, ſaying, 16, 15, 14, 13, rub out theſe four, and begin again; 12, 11, 10, 9, and rub out theſe and proceed again; 8, 7, 6, 5, and rub out theſe; and laſtly ſay, 4, 3, 2, 1; when theſe four are rubbed out, the whole twenty are rubbed out at five times, and every time an odd one, that is, the 17th, 13th, 9th, 5th, 1ſt.

This is a trick, which, if once ſeen, may be eaſily retained; and the only puzzle at firſt, is it not occuring immediately to the mind, to begin to rub them out backwards. It is as ſimple as any thing poſſibly can be, and might do very well when people are ſocial and good-humoured together; but when they are fluſhed with liquor, and fractious by nature, I adviſe all thoſe who love peace and quietneſs, not to be curious to know what they cannot directly comprehend, as one word brings on another, and the conſequences may be what is diſplayed in the preface to this trick.

*A Perſon holding Gold in one Hand and Silver in the other, to find which the Gold is in, and which the Silver.*

Tricks of this kind, though very ſimple, are really amuſing; they are pretty puzzlers to entertain the mind, and as ſuch may be recommended to young people who are inclined to be merry without deſign to offend.

That wit or ingenuity, which has malice or envy for its object, is a ſpurious offſpring, and not the genuine deſcendant of the ſportive god Momus.

## EXAMPLE.

Bid him reckon four for the gold; and three for the ſilver, or any other number, ſo that one be odd, and the other even; then let him triple that which is in the right-hand, and double that in the left, and let him add theſe two products together; then aſk him if it be even or odd; for if it be even, then the gold will be in the right-hand; but if odd, the gold is in the left-hand.

Such tricks as theſe are harmleſs, and may be practiſed to paſs away time on a tedious evening, without the parties being the leaſt culpable; for which reaſon it is recommended to the youthful and innocent, as a pleaſant recreation.

*How,*

*How, on delivering a Ring to a Number of Perſons, to find which Perſon has got it, which Hand it is on, which Finger, and which Joint.*

Though witchcraft, witches, and wizards, and thoſe tawney ſibyls, or gipſey gangs, are leſs numerous than in former days, and almoſt totally exploded by a late act of parliament; yet there are a great many of the ſenſible part of the world, that firmly hold the doctrine of magic, and think that an old woman, with a leather-looking aſpect, thin jaws, and a quantity of hair upon her chin, can mount a broom-ſtick, and fly to ſweep the cobwebs off the moon: or, that others can creep in at a key-hole, and carry a cheſt of drawers out the ſame way, or transform themſelves into a black cat, a crooked horned cow, a dark lanthorn, or a crooked ſixpence. To ſuch as will not be undeceived by the light of reaſon, I ſhall give full liberty to remain in the darkneſs of ignorance. The following contrivance will by many be looked on, no doubt, as not to be done, but by the aſſiſtance of magic art; that is, to give a ring among a number of people, without knowing to which, and yet to tell which perſon has got the ring, on which hand, finger and joint. The company muſt ſit down on a row, then beginning at one end of the company, call one of them the firſt, another the ſecond, and next the third, and ſo on; alſo call the right-hand the firſt, the left-hand the ſecond, and ſo forth, and ſo of the joints of each finger; then deliver the ring, and leave them to conceal it among themſelves.

Then, to find which has the ring, upon which hand, which finger, and which joint, bid them double the firſt man's number, and add to it five, and multiply the ſum by five, and to the product add ten; and the next man's number thought upon; then let them multiply the ſum by ten, and add to the product the next man's number, and ſo proceed; then enquire the laſt

laſt ſum, and if there were but two numbers thought upon, ſubtract three hundred and fifty therefrom; if four, three thouſand five hundred, &c. for the numbers repreſenting the perſon, the hand, the finger, and the joint, may be taken for four numbers thought upon.

## EXAMPLE.

Suppoſe the fourth perſon has the ring on his left-hand, and on the third joint of that finger, bid them

| | |
|---|---|
| double the number of the perſon, it makes | 8 |
| To which add five, it makes — — | 13 |
| This multiplied by five, makes — | 65 |
| To which add ten, and it makes — | 75 |
| And two added for the left-hand — | 77 |
| Which multiplied by ten, makes —— | 770 |
| To which adding five, for the fingers, makes | 775 |
| This multiplied by ten, makes —— | 7750 |
| To which three added for the joints, makes | 7753 |
| To which cauſe them to add fourteen, (or any number you pleaſe to conceal) it makes — — | 7767 |
| From which ſubtract — — | 3514 |
| And there remains — — | 4253 |

Which ſhews that the fourth perſon has the ring upon the ſecond hand, the fourth finger, and the third joint.

*Note*, that 3500 is the number always to be ſubtracted, only you muſt add thereto, as much as you cauſe to be added to the laſt ſum, which were fourteen.

Thus this mighty magical affair is determined by figures and calculation; yet it muſt be owned, that ſuch ſubjects are of uſe, to exerciſe the memory, and make you perfect in one of the moſt uſeful branches of knowledge, as it is of the moſt diſtinguiſhed ſervice in all profeſſions; the merchant, the tradeſman, and the mechanic.

*A pleaſing*

*A pleaſing Trick by Figures.*

The perſon who performs the trick muſt write down four figures, which being ſeen by the company, he is privately to mark down the ſum that thoſe figures, with another four under them marked by one of the company, and a third row by himſelf, ſhall amount to. The performer marks 1 2 3 4, and then privately the ſum the three rows will make, which let the perſon in company mark what figures he will in the ſecond row, the third marked by the performer ſhall make the ſum total 11233. As for inſtance:

| | |
|---|---|
| The performer marks | 1234 |
| The perſon in company | 5678 |
| The performer | 4321 |
| | 11233 |

This trick is done by the performer adding the figure 1 at the beginning of the firſt number, and making the laſt figure one leſs. Whatever figures are marked in the ſecond row, the performer is to mark ſuch under them as will make the figures in the two laſt rows tell for nine, when the ſum total will amount to the ſum privately marked by the performer.

*Another Trick by Figures.*

Tell any perſon to think of what number they pleaſe, which being done, tell them to double that number; then to add what number you think proper; then to halve the whole; then to take away the firſt number they thought of, and you will tell them the remainder.

To explain this trick, ſuppoſe the perſon thinks of twelve, you tell him to double it, which makes twenty-four; you then tell him to add ten to it, which makes thirty-four; then to halve the whole, which reduces

reduces it to ſeventeen; then take away the firſt number he thought of, which is twelve; and the remainder will be five.

The doing of this trick is directed by a moſt infallible rule; for whatever even ſum you tell them to *add*, the remainder (as in the caſe above) will always be *half* that number.

*The Artificial Bird, ſinging at the Deſire of the Company.*

This bird perched on a bottle, ſings, without any preliminary exerciſe, all the airs required, not excepting thoſe which the moſt cunning muſician can compoſe extempore. He alſo ſings equally correct, changed to different bottles, and on different tables; and the breath from his bill blows out a candle and lights it ſpeedily after. To conclude, the bird performs whilſt in your hand, without deriving any aid from the bottle.

## EXPLANATION.

Behind the curtain, which covers part of the partition, are placed two ſmall ſpeaking trumpets, which the confederate employs to convey his voice to different parts, according to the poſition of the table and the bottle, on which the bird is perched. The confederate has in his mouth the inner ſkin of an onion, by which he imitates the notes of a bird in the ſame manner as the celebrated Roſſignol follows the air given to the muſicians, either by memory, or the notes furniſh them. If the air is too difficult for the confederate and the muſicians to execute extempore—you acquaint the company that (to render the trick more aſtoniſhing) you will begin by ſome well known air, and then ſuddenly fall into the air given to be executed, as if to ſurpriſe the bird, and add to the difficulty of executing what is laid before it—ſome of the muſicians avail themſelves of this moment to throw a rapid

eye

eye over the difficulty propoſed, and take care not to begin until they are ſufficiently ſtudied in it; the bird has in its body a little double bellows, and between its legs a little moving peg, which puts the bellows in motion—by the levers which are under the cloth, when the confederate draws the wire which is hidden in the feet of the table—by the ſame means the bellows is moved to blow out the candle; and it proves to the ſpectators, that the notes are really formed in the throat of the bird, becauſe the air comes through its bill. When you take the bird in your own hand, you put the bellows in motion with your thumb, and the wind in the ſame manner, extinguiſhing the candle, perſuades the company that the bird ſings without the aid of any machinery hidden in the table; the candle being only a moment extinguiſhed, and the wick ſtill warm, is lighted inſtantly by touching the bill of the bird, which, for that purpoſe, has been furniſhed with a little phoſphorus that operates as a match.

*The Card nailed to the Wall by a Piſtol Shot.*

A card is deſired to be drawn, and the perſon who choſe it requeſted to tear off a corner, and to keep it, that he may know the card—the card ſo torn, is then burnt to cinders, and a piſtol is charged with gunpowder, with which the aſhes of the card are mixed. Inſtead of a ball a nail is put into the barrel, which is marked by ſome of the company. The pack of cards is then thrown up in the air, the piſtol is fired, and the burnt card appears nailed againſt the wall—the bit of the corner which was torn off, is then compared with it, and is found exactly to fit, and the nail which faſtens it to the wall is recognized by the perſons who marked it.

## EXPLANATION.

When the performer ſees that a corner has been torn from the choſen card, he retires, and makes a ſimilar

ſimilar tear on a like card. Returning on the theatre, he aſks for the choſen card, and paſſes it to the bottom of the pack, and ſubſtitutes expertly in the place, the card which he has prepared, which he burns inſtead of the firſt.

When the piſtol is loaded, he takes it in his hand under the pretence of ſhewing how to direct it, &c. He avails himſelf of this opportunity to open a hole in the barrel near the touch-hole, through which the nail falls by its own weight into his hand; having ſhut this paſſage carefully, he requeſts ſome one of the company to put more powder and wadding in the piſtol; whilſt that is doing, he carries the nail and card to his confederate, who quickly nails the card to a piece of ſquare wood which ſtops, hermetically, a ſpace left open in the partition, and in the tapeſtry, but which is not perceived, as it is covered by a piece of tapeſtry, ſimilar to the reſt of the room, and by which means, when the nailed card is put in, it is not perceived; the piece of tapeſtry which covers it, is nicely faſtened on the one end with two pins, and to the other a thread is faſtened, one end of which the confederate holds in his hand. As ſoon as the report of the piſtol is heard, the confederate draws his thread, by which means the piece of tapeſtry falls behind a glaſs—the card appears the ſame that was marked—and with the nail that was put in the piſtol. It is not aſtoniſhing, that this trick being ſo difficult by its complexity to be gueſſed at, ſhould have received ſuch univerſal applauſe.

*N. B.* After the piſtol has been charged with powder, a tin tube may be ſlipped upon the charge, into which the nail being rammed along with the wadding, by inclining it a little in preſenting to one of the ſpectators to fire, the tube and contents will fall into the performer's hand to convey to his confederate. If any one ſuſpects that the nail has been ſtolen out of the piſtol, you perſiſt in the contrary, and beg their company

company at the next exhibition to be further convinced, you then are to ſhew a piſtol, which you take to pieces, to ſhew that all is fair without any preparation—you charge it with a nail, which is marked by ſome perſon in confederacy with you, or you ſhew it to many people on purpoſe to avoid its being marked. In this caſe the card is nailed with another nail, but to perſuade the company that it is the ſame, you boldly aſſert, that the nail was marked by ſeveral perſons, and you requeſt the ſpectators to view it, and be convinced.

*The Card burned, and afterwards found in a Watch.*

One of the company draws a chance card, and you aſk for three watches from the ſpectators, which you fold up in ſeparate pieces of paper in the form of dice-boxes, which are laid on a table, and covered with a napkin—the card choſen is burned, and the cinders put into a box—ſhortly after the box is opened, and the aſhes are not there. The three watches are put on a plate, and ſome one of the company chuſes one, the ſame perſon opens the watch, and finds under the glaſs a piece of the burned card: and in the watch-caſe, under the watch, is found a miniature card, reſembling the one burnt.

## EXPLANATION.

The card choſen is known by the arrangement we have explained.

The watches are placed, well covered with paper, on the little trap *: when you have made known to the confederate the card which is choſen, he ſtretches his arm into the table to take one of the watches, and depoſit there what is requiſite; the watches muſt be covered with a napkin, which is ſupported by bottles, or ſomewhat elſe, otherwiſe the hand of the confederate

* The trap is deſcribed in the cutting, tearing and mending a handkerchief.

would

would be ſeen, or the napkin would be perceived to move. As for the means employed to cauſe the aſhes of the burned card to diſappear in the box, it conſiſts in putting into the cover a piece of wood or paper which exactly fits it, and falls down to the bottom when the box is ſhut; this piece of wood or paper being of the ſame colour as the inſide of the box, operates as a double bottom, and hides the aſhes from the view of the deceived ſpectator, who at that minute is tempted to believe, that the aſhes are gone out to be combined afreſh, and to produce the miniature card which is found in the watch.

*How to make Sport with a Cat.*

Get a little bell, ſuch as the tame hawks have at their legs, and tie the bell ſomething hard at the end of the cat's tail, and let her go; ſhe feeling her tail ſmart, and hearing the bell jingle, will run up and down as if ſhe were mad, flying againſt the walls and windows; then if ſhe can, ſhe will get into ſome hole to hide herſelf, but when ſhe wags her tail never ſo little, then out ſhe comes, and is as mad as before, and never will reſt till it be off.

*Another.*

Get a cat and put her head betwixt your thighs, and hold her four feet faſt in one hand, and with the other hand hold up her tail near the fire, and ſhe will piſs ſuch abundance, that ſhe will quite quench the ſame.

*To catch Kites, Crows, Magpies, &c. alive.*

Get *nux vomica*, beat it to powder; this done, take raw fleſh or liver, and cut it into little pieces, that the fowl may ſwallow them whole; then cut holes in the ſame, and put your powder therein, and then lay theſe pieces where they haunt, but as ſoon as they have ſwallowed down the ſame, they will fly to the

next tree they can come at, and this preſently makes them ſo drunk or ſick, that they will fall down to the ground; but be ſure to watch them, and run preſently to the tree, for they will ſoon recover and fly away.

I believe if it were ſodden with other grain, it would have the like operation with other fowl.

### *The Dancing Egg.*

Three eggs are brought on the ſtage, two of them are put on a table, and a third in a hat; a little cane is borrowed from one of the company, and it is ſhewn about to convince the ſpectators that there is no preparation. It is then placed acroſs the hat, the hat falls to the ground, and the egg ſticks to it as if glued, the orcheſtra then plays a piece of muſic, and the egg, as if it was ſenſible of the harmony, twiſts about the cane from one end to the other, and continues its motion till the muſic ſtops.

### EXPLANATION.

The egg is faſtened to a thread by a pin, which is put in lengthways, and the hole, which has been made to introduce the pin, is ſtopped with white wax. The other end of the thread is faſtened to the breaſt of the perſon, who performs the trick, with a pin bent like a hook, the cane paſſing under the thread near to the egg ſerves for it to reſt on—when the muſic begins, the performer puſhes the cane from right to left, or from left to right; it then appears as if the egg ran along the cane, which it does not, being faſtened to its thread, its center of gravity remains always at the ſame diſtance from the hook that holds it, it is the cane, which ſliding along, preſents its different points to the ſurface of the egg.

*N. B.* To produce the illuſion, and perſuade the company that it is the egg which carries itſelf towards the different points of the cane, the performer turns a little on his heel, by this means the egg receives a

motion which deceives the ſpectators, it remaining always at the ſame diſtance from the point to which it is faſtened.

*A ſure Way to catch a Pick-pocket.*

A gentleman being in a throng in a fair, had his purſe picked out of his pocket, he miſſing it, preſently buyeth two pennyworth of fiſh-hooks, and cauſeth a taylor to ſew them round about toward the upper part of his pockets, with the points of them downwards, and ſo the next day away he goes to the fair again among the throng, ſeeming careleſs of his pockets, preſently there was a diver nibbling at the bait, and nimbly had his hand in his pocket; the gentleman being wary (perceived that the fiſh had ſwallowed the hook) gave a jerk aſide, which cauſed the hooks to catch good hold in his hand, and then he had him ſure; then ſaid the gentleman, "Fellow, what maketh "thy hand in my pocket?" O, good Sir (replied the pick-pocket) pardon me, I cannot pull it out: The gentleman told him of the loſs he had ſuſtained the day before, and making him reſtore back his money, he cut out his pocket and let him go, with ſtore of picking work to get the hooks out of his hand again.

*To write any Name upon a Paper, and then burn it to Aſhes, yet afterward it may be read plainly.*

Take a new clean pen that was never writ with, and dip in your own water as you do in ink, then ſtrip up your ſhirt-ſleeve above your wriſt, and upon your arm write your name, or any mark, and then let it dry on your ſkin, and nothing will be ſeen, then put down your ſleeve and button your wriſt; do this privately, and it will cauſe ſome wonder; then take a piece of white paper and write your name, or the mark thereon with another pen of black ink (but let it be written as like the other as you can) then take the

the paper and burn it, and lay the aſhes on a table, and ſtripping up your ſleeve, rub the aſhes hard with your finger, where you had written with your water, then blow off the aſhes, and the name or mark will plainly be read on your arm in black letters.

*A Conceit to procure Laughter.*

Take a ball in one hand, and another in the other, and ſtretch your hands as far as you can one from the other, and if any one will lay a quart of wine with him, that you will not withdraw your hands, and yet will make both of them come into either hand, which they pleaſe. It is no more to do than to lay one down upon the table, and turn yourſelf round, and take it up with the other hand, and your wager is won, and it will move no ſmall laughter to ſee a fool ſo loſe his money.

*How to make two Bells come into one Hand, having put into each Hand one.*

This feat muſt be performed with three bells; you muſt put one bell into your left ſleeve, then put one bell into one hand, and another bell into the other hand (they muſt be little morris bells) withdraw your hands, and privily convey the bell in your left-hand into your right; then ſtretch both your hands abroad, and bid two folks hold your hands faſt, but firſt ſhake your hands, and ſay, "Do you hear them?" The bell that is in your ſleeve will not be known by the rattling, but that it is in your hand: then ſay, "He now that is the arranteſt whore-maſter or cuckold of you both ſhall have both the bells, and the other none at all:" open your hands then and ſhew them, and it will be thought that you deal by art magic.

*To ſeem to blow a Sixpence out of another Man's Hand.*

Take a ſixpence, blow on it, and clap it preſently into one of your ſpectator's hands, bidding him to

hold it faſt: then aſk of him if he be ſure to have it, then to be certain, he will open his hand and look. Then ſay to him, "Nay, but if you let my breath go off I cannot do it:" Then take it out of his hand again, and blow on it, and, ſtaring him in the face, clap a piece of horn in his hand, and retain the ſixpence, ſhutting his hand yourſelf. Bid him hold his hand down, and ſlip the teaſter between one of his cuffs. Then take the ſtone that you ſhew feats with, and hold it unto his hand, ſaying, "By virtue hereof I will and command the money to vaniſh you hold in your hand; vade now ſee." When they have looked, then they will think that it is changed by virtue of your ſtone. Then take the horn again and ſeem to caſt it from you, retaining it, and ſay, "Vade;" and anon ſay, you have your money again. He then will begin to marvel, and ſay, I have not: ſay then to him again, you have, and I am ſure you have it: Is it not in your hand? If it be not there, turn down one of your ſleeves, for it is in one I am ſure: where he finding it, he will not a little wonder.

*How to break a Staff upon two Glaſſes of Water.*

Place the glaſſes (being full of water) upon two joint ſtools, or ſuch like equidiſtant from the ground, and diſtant one from another the length of the ſtaff; then place the end of the ſtaff upon the edges of the two glaſſes, ſo that they be ſharp; this done, with all the force you can, with another ſtaff, ſtrike the ſtaff which lies on the glaſſes in the midſt, and it will break, without breaking the glaſſes, or ſpilling the water.

*Of the Accuſation of a Thief.*

A thief breaking into an orchard, ſtole from thence a certain number of pears, and at his coming forth he met with three men one after another, who threatened to accuſe him of theft, and for to appeaſe them, he

he gave unto the firſt man half the pairs he had ſtolen, who returned him back 12 of them—then he gave unto the ſecond half of them he had remaining, who returned him back 7—and unto the third man he gave half the reſidue, who returned him back 4, and in the end he had ſtill remaining 20 pears. Now do I demand how many pears he ſtole in all? To anſwer this queſtion, you muſt work backward, for if you take 4 from 20, there will remain 16, which being doubled, make 32; from which abate 7, and there will remain 25; which being doubled, make 50; from which ſubtract 12, and there will remain 38, which again doubled make 76, the true number of pears that he gathered.

### *Of Three Siſters.*

A certain man having three daughters, to the eldeſt he gave 22 apples; to the ſecond he gave 16 apples; and to the third he gave 10 apples, and ſent them to the market to ſell them, and gave them command to ſell one as many for a penny as the other (namely 7 a penny) and every one to bring him home ſo much money as the other, and neither change either apples nor money one with another: How could that be?

This (to ſome) may ſeem impoſſible, but to arithmeticians very eaſy; for whereas the eldeſt had three pennyworths and one apple over; the ſecond two pennyworths and two apples over, and the youngeſt had one pennyworth and three apples over; ſo that the youngeſt had ſo many ſingle apples and one pennyworth as the eldeſt had pennyworths and one apple over, and conſequently the ſecond proportional to them both.

They made their market thus: A ſteward coming to buy fruit for his lady, bought all the apples they had at 7 a penny, leaving the odd ones behind; then had the eldeſt ſiſter three-pence and one apple; the middle ſiſter two-pence and two apples; and the youngeſt,

youngeſt, one penny and three apples. The ſteward bringing the fruit to his lady, ſhe liked it ſo well, that ſhe ſent him for the reſt, who replied, that there were but few remaining; ſhe notwithſtanding ſent him for them, and bid him bring them at any rate. The ſteward coming to the market again, could not buy the odd apples under a penny a-piece (who to content his lady was fain to give it) then had the youngeſt ſiſter three pennyworth; the middle ſiſter two pennyworth; and the eldeſt one pennyworth, and ſo had they all fourpence a-piece, and yet ſold as many for a penny one with another, and neither changed apples nor money one with another, as they were commanded.

*To lay one End of a Stick upon a Stool or Table, and hang a Pail of Water at the other End.*

Lay one end of the ſtaff or ſtick a pretty way upon a table or ſtool (ſo that it roll not off) letting the other end hang over the table likewiſe; then take a pail full of water, and hang the pail or handle upon the ſame; but you muſt have another ſhort ſtick that will reach juſt from the inſide of the bottom of the pail to the long ſtick on the table, and then ſhall the pail of water hang from the ground upon the long ſtaff's end on the table without falling, ſeeming very ſtrange: this is difficult at firſt, till you hit juſt in the center of gravity, yet I have often done it.

*To tell the Number that another Man ſhall think, be it never ſo great.*

Let the party that thinketh, double the number which he thought, which done, bid him multiply the ſum of them both by 5, and give you the product (which they will never refuſe to do, it being ſo far above the number thought) from the which, if you abate the laſt figure of the product (which will always be a cypher or 5) the number thought will remain.

EXAMPLE.

## EXAMPLE.

the number thought be 53, which doubled, maketh 106; and multiplied by 5, makes 530; then, if you take away the cypher which is in the laſt place, there will remain 53, the number thought.

*To make a glorious Light with a Candle.*

Go to the glaſs-houſe and get them to blow you a thin round globe-glaſs, bigger than a penny loaf (the bigger the better) with a ſhort neck like a bottle. When you have this glaſs, with glue or wax, bind a piece of tape about the neck or top, making a little loop therewith to hang by; then fill your glaſs with the pureſt conduit or ſpring water you can get (putting ſome aqua-vitæ or brandy therein to keep it from freezing) ſtopping it cloſe to keep the duſt out: having thus done, if you will uſe it at a table or bench, knock a tenterhook or nail into the ceiling or ſhelf, and with a tape or packthread faſten it to the loop, and hang it up; but a round ſtick will be better to hang it on, putting it into a poſt or hole in the wall, that you may make it higher or lower at your pleaſure in turning the ſtick; then behind your glaſs ſet a candle lighted upon a table, and you ſhall have a glorious light through the glaſs and water for your purpoſe.——— Some uſe to place a ſheet of oily paper between them and the candle, and this will cauſe a good light.

FINIS.

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